



*Adventure* COMICS

PRESENTS

35¢

NO. 456

APR.

30415



# SUPERBOY

A  
BOOK-LENGTH  
**SHOCKER:**  
"THIS  
**POWER...**  
THIS  
**RESPONSIBILITY!!**"

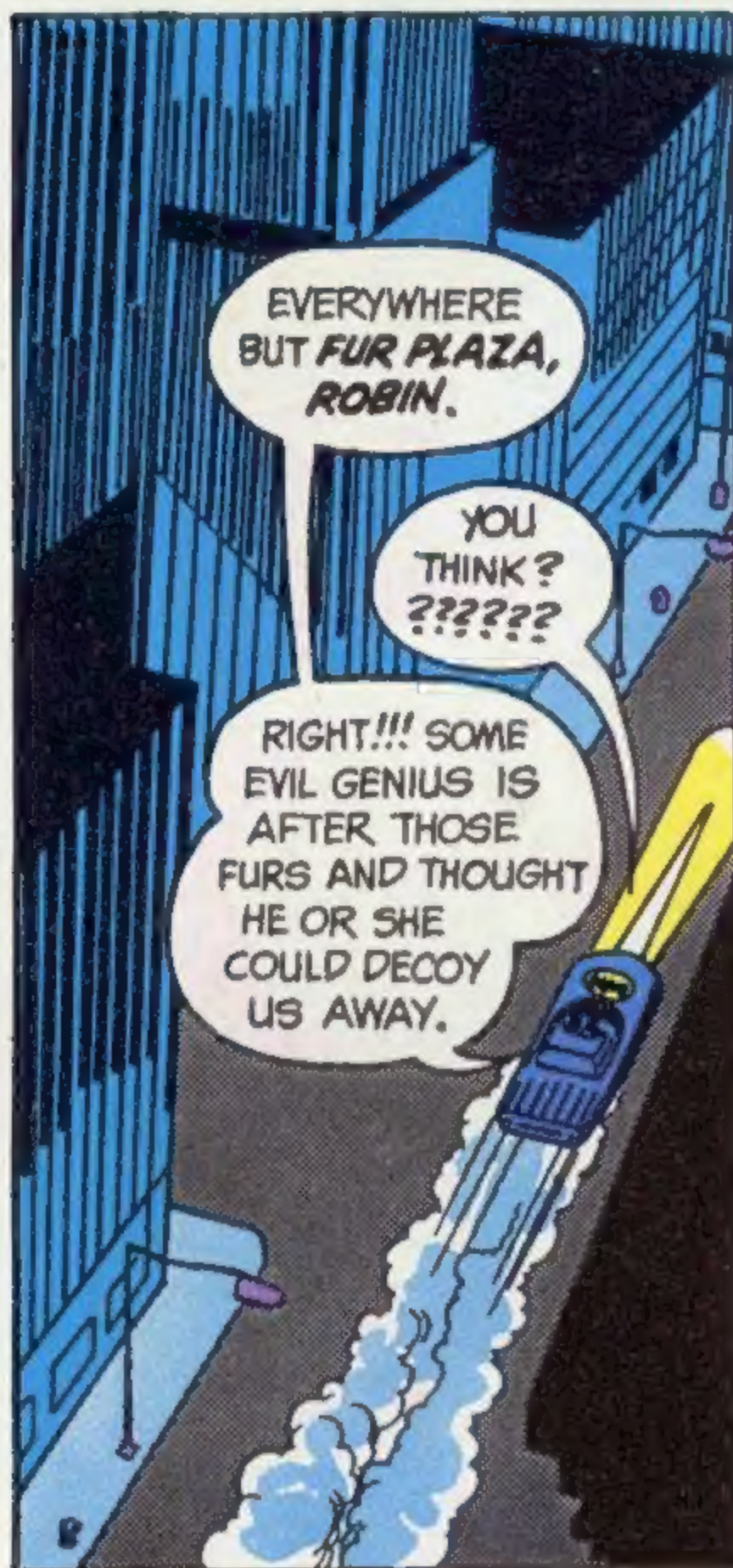


# BATMAN

## AND SABLE LADY

GOTHAM CITY SLUMBERS PEACEFULLY UNDER THE STARS. ALL IS QUIET ON THE BATCOMPUTER WHEN SUDDENLY!!!!

HOLY SIRENS, BATMAN, BURGLAR ALARMS ALL OVER THE CITY... ALL AT ONCE.



**THE FABULOUS FIFTIES:** DWIGHT D EISENHOWER IS PRESIDENT; THE NEW YORK YANKEES ARE THE #1 TEAM IN BASEBALL; LUCY IS THE UNDISPUTED QUEEN OF TV; AND IN SMALLVILLE, A YOUNG MAN WHO WILL SOMEDAY BE THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO IS ALREADY RENOWNED AS

# SUPERBOY

THE SUN SHINES BRIGHTLY THIS BLUE DECEMBER DAY, AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE SMALLVILLE WINTER CARNIVAL BEAR WITNESS TO AN UNSCHEDULED ENTERTAINMENT...



TH-THAT M-MONSTER! I-IT JUST POPPED UP OUTA NOWHERE!

AH, DON'T FLIP YER DUCKTAIL! CAN'TCHA SEE SUPERBOY'S MADE THE SCENE?

AN' SUPERBOY CAN HANDLE ANYTHING!

"ANYTHING"? PERHAPS... BUT THEN, THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BATTLING HAIRY MONSTERS-- AND FIGHTING THE FOES THAT LURK WITHIN ONE'S OWN MIND; A FACT THE BOY OF STEEL WILL SOON DISCOVER, AS HE COMES TO GRIPS WITH ...

## THIS POWER... THIS RESPONSIBILITY

DAVID MICHELINIE — WRITER  
JOE STATON & JACK ABEL — ARTISTS  
GENE D'ANGELO — COLORIST  
BEN ODA — LETTERER  
PAUL LEVITZ — EDITOR

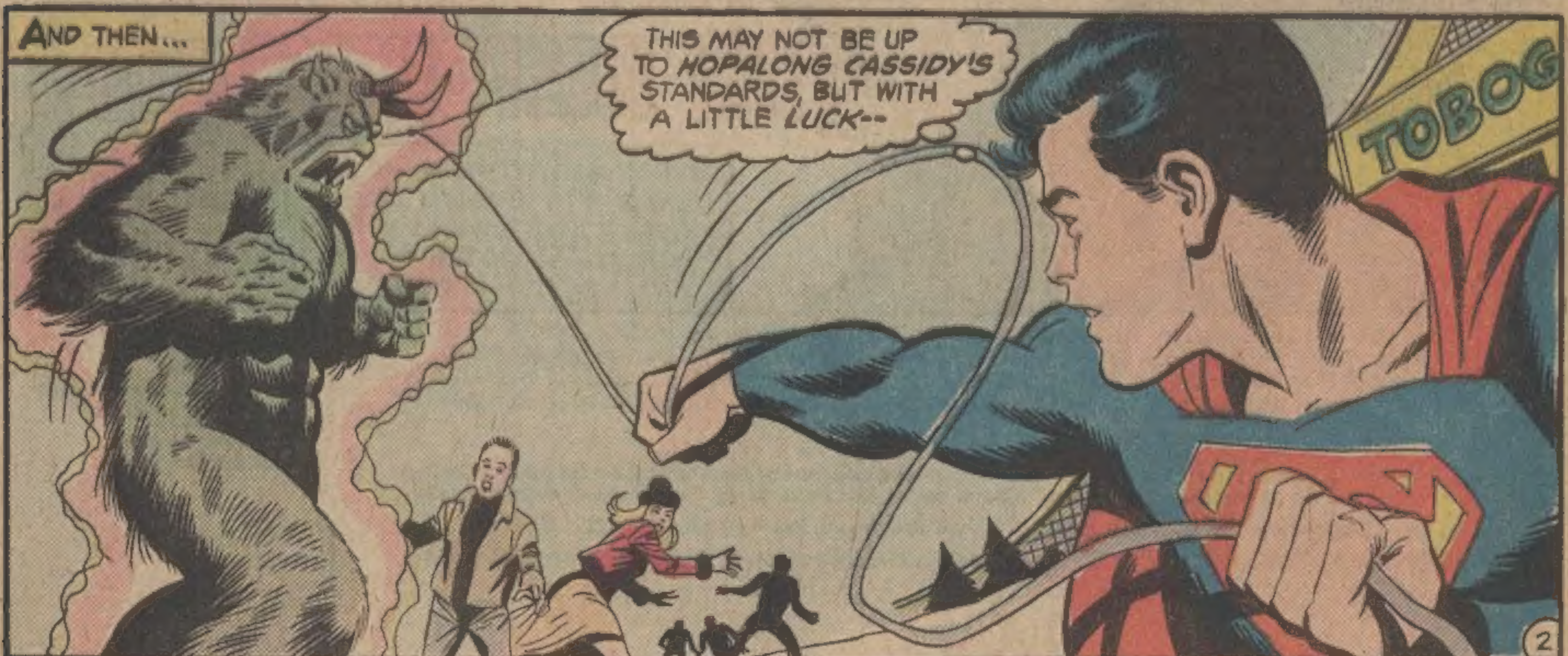
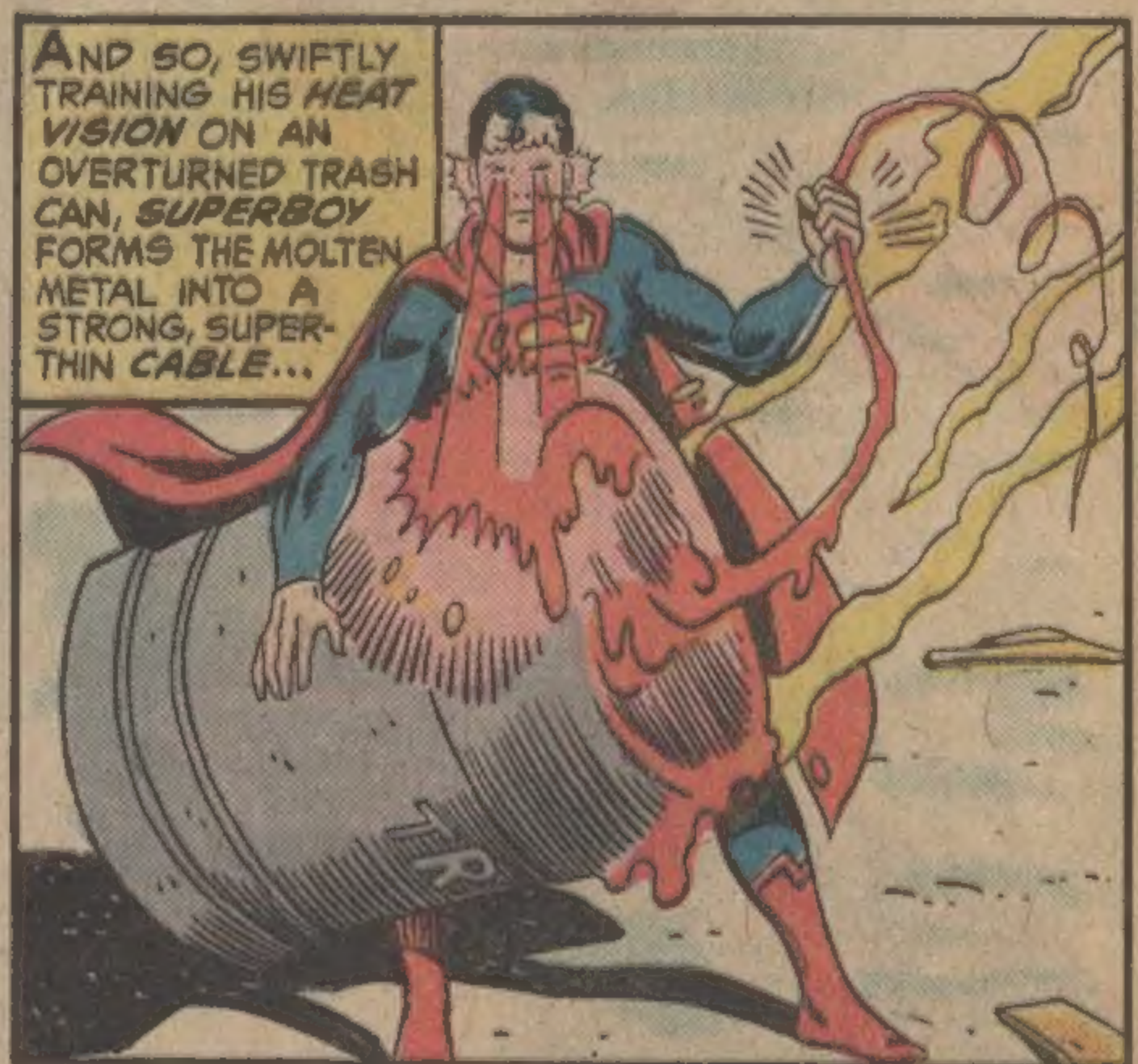
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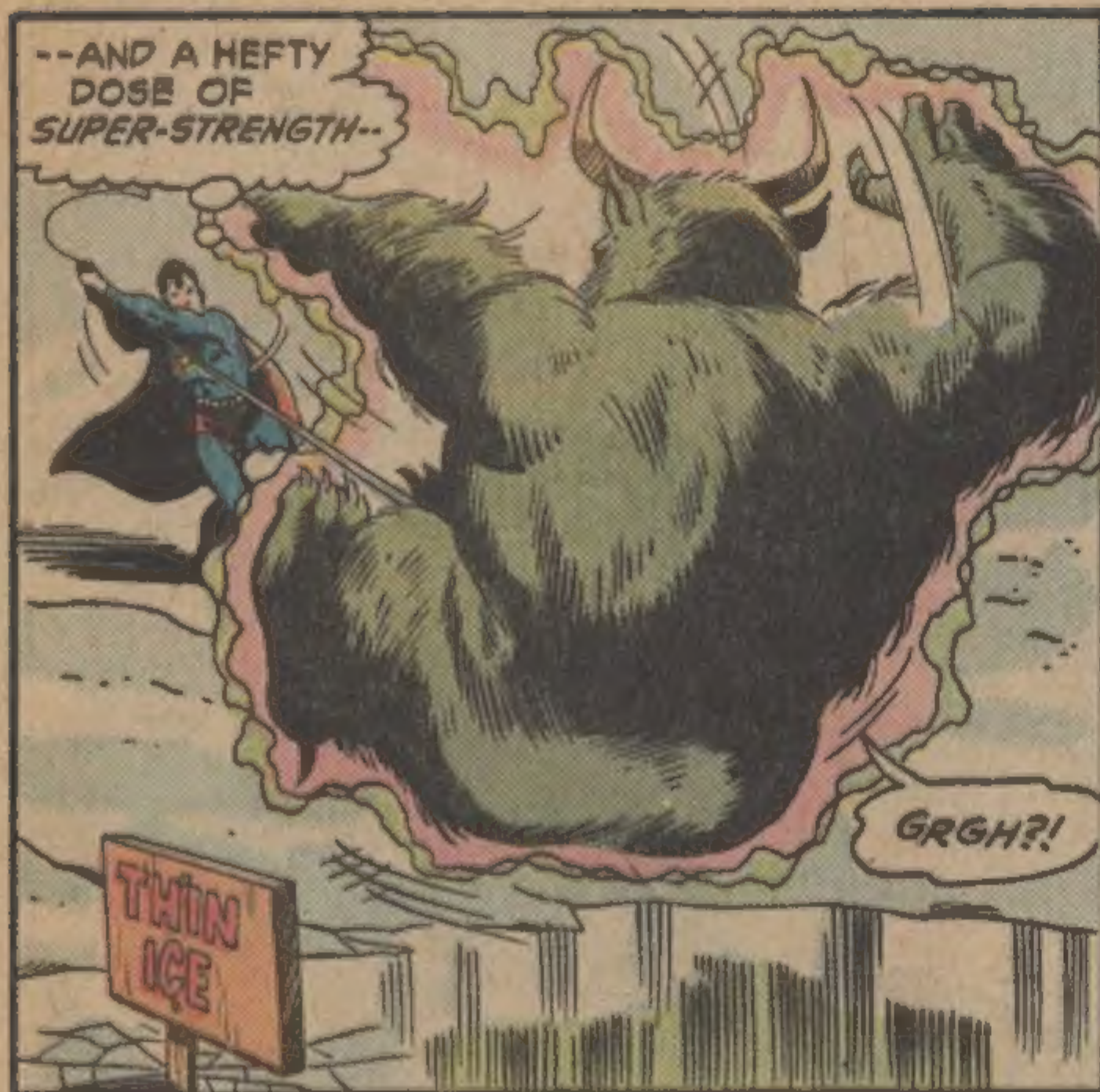
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HOWEVER, AT THAT MOMENT SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES OUT IN SPACE...

I SAY, GENTLEMEN, THIS DOES SEEM TO COMPLICATE MATTERS SOMEWHAT.

OH, YES!

I AGREE!

QUITE SO!

IT DOES!

AS THOUGHT EXPLORERS, OUR PURPOSE IS TO STUDY AND CATALOGUE MORAL DEVELOPMENT ON ALIEN WORLDS--

--BY PROJECTING SOLID IMAGES OF MENACES AND OBSERVING HOW THE INHABITANTS REACT TO THEM!

YES, BUT THIS FLYING CREATURE--THIS SUPERBOY--DOESN'T SEEM TO BE INDICATIVE OF THE AVERAGE EARTHLING!

AND HE MIGHT UPSET OUR STUDIES TERRIBLY!

MAYBE SO... BUT HE ALSO MIGHT PROVIDE A FASCINATING OBJECT FOR ENLIGHTENMENT!

AFTER ALL, A BEING OF SUCH EXCEPTIONAL ABILITIES MUST HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL MORAL FIBER, EH?

WHY, I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!

IT'S TRUE!

THEN MIGHT I SUGGEST THAT WE INSTIGATE A MIND PROBE ON THE SUBJECT--AND CONTINUE OUR EXPERIMENT?

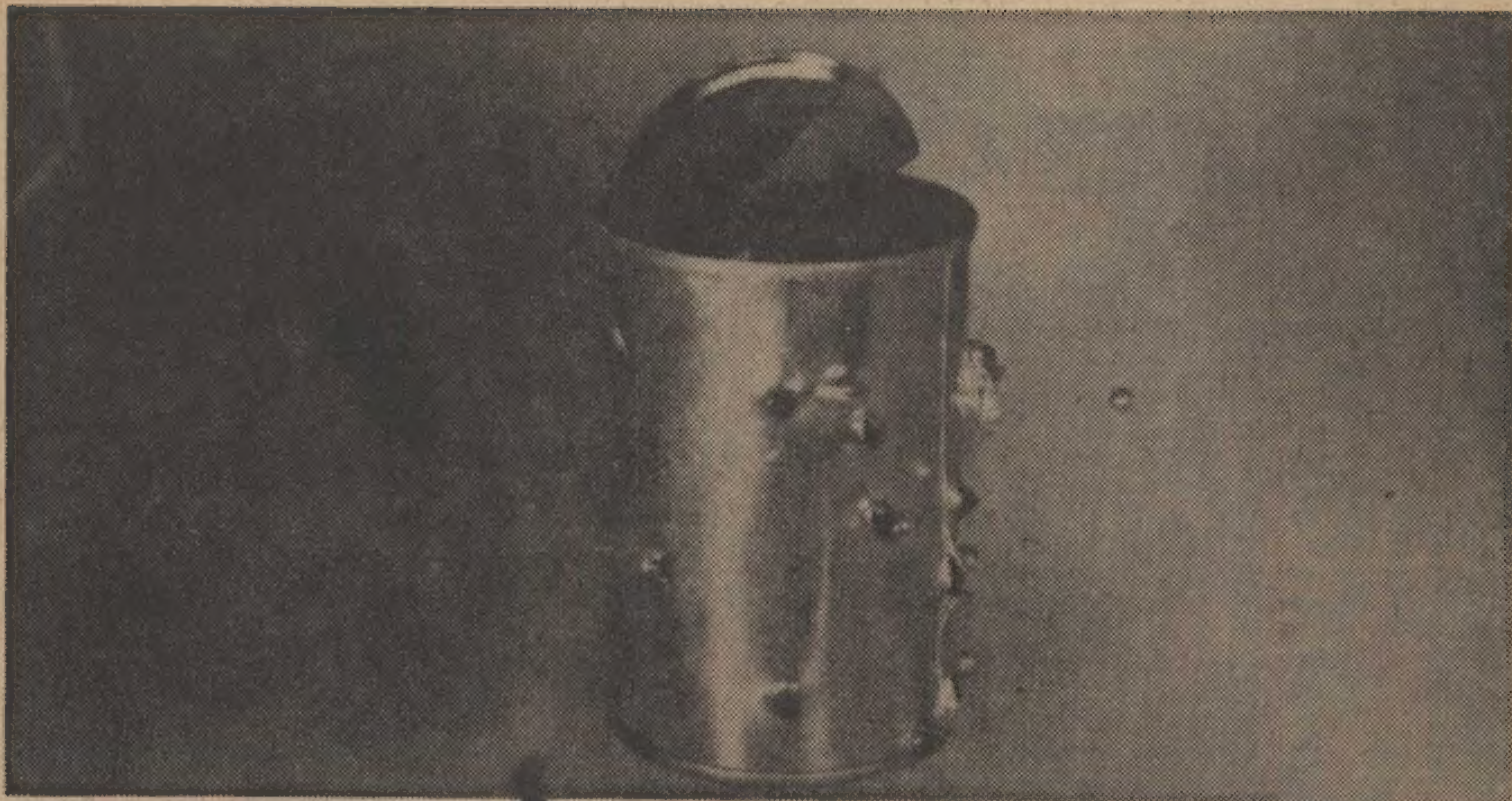
INDEED, YES!

PLEASE DO!

BY ALL MEANS!

AND SO HE DOES--

CONTINUED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING



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#6833 ... Film 3 for 90¢



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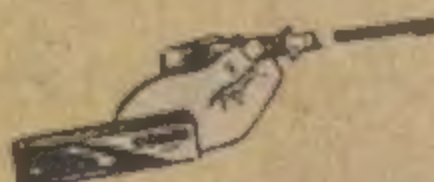
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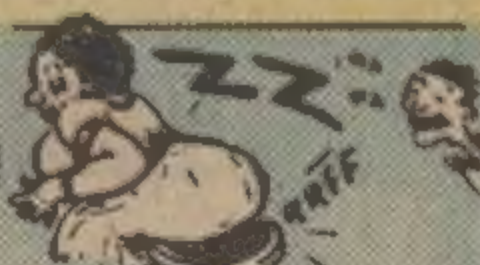
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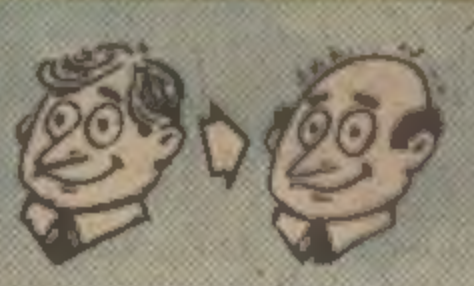
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I KNOW, PETE. AND SPEAKING OF DISAPPEARANCES, WHERE'S--

--CLARK!

SORRY, GANG, I WAS OVER AT THE CARNIVAL MEDICAL TENT GETTING SOME BROMO--GUESS I ATE TOO MUCH SNOW ICE CREAM.

DID I MISS ANYTHING?



OH, JUST SUPERBOY PERFORMING A FEW DAZZLINGLY SPECTACULAR STUNTS, THAT'S ALL!

HMPH! THE ONLY THING SPECTACULAR ABOUT THAT SHOW-OFF IS HIS EGO!

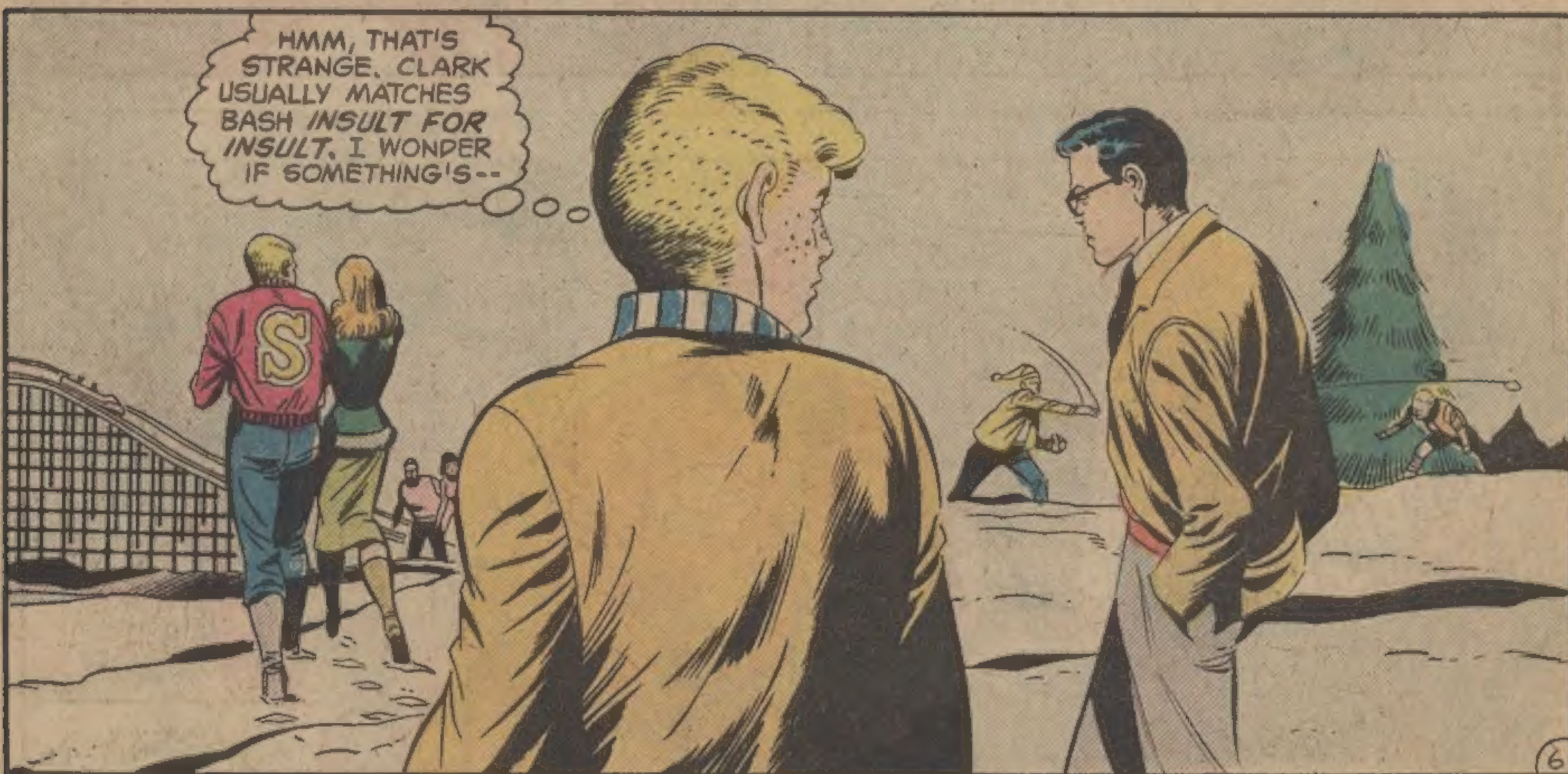
YA GIVE A GUY A FANCY COSTUME AN' A SET OF POWERS AN' ALL OF A SUDDEN HE THINKS HE'S ...HE'S...

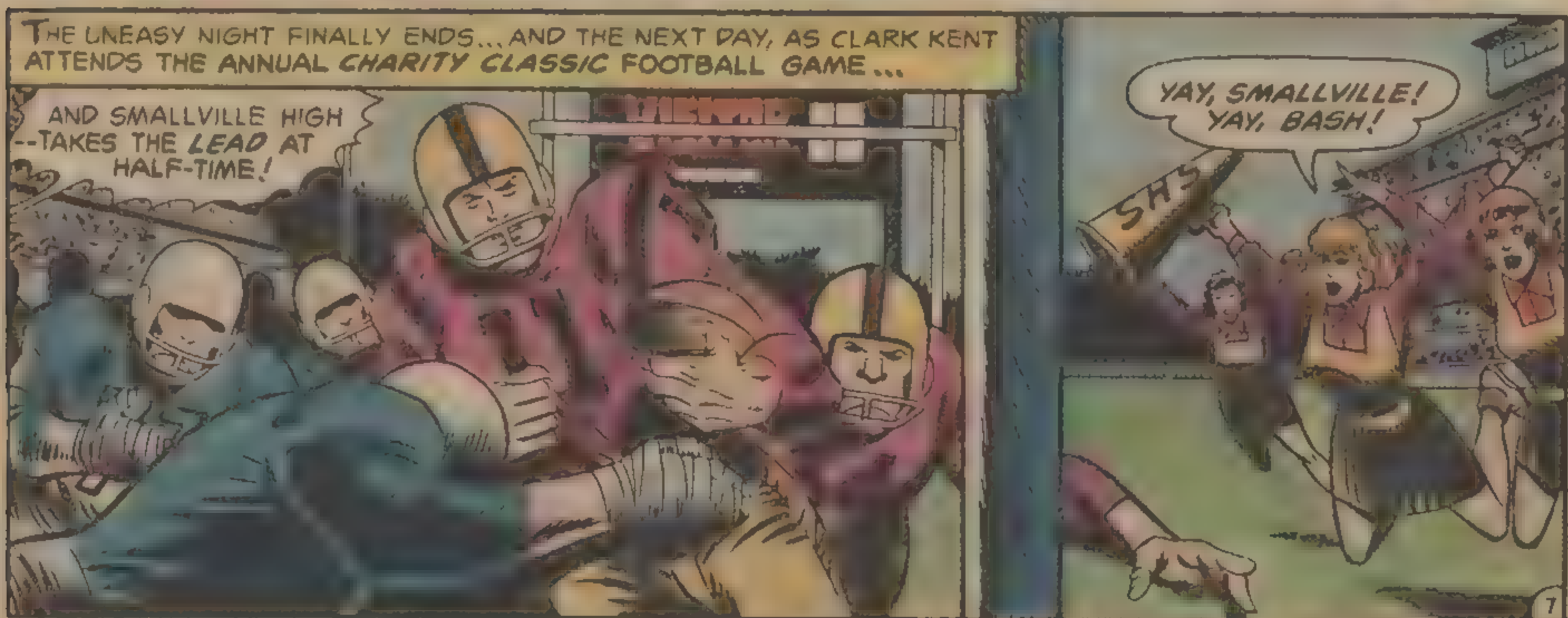
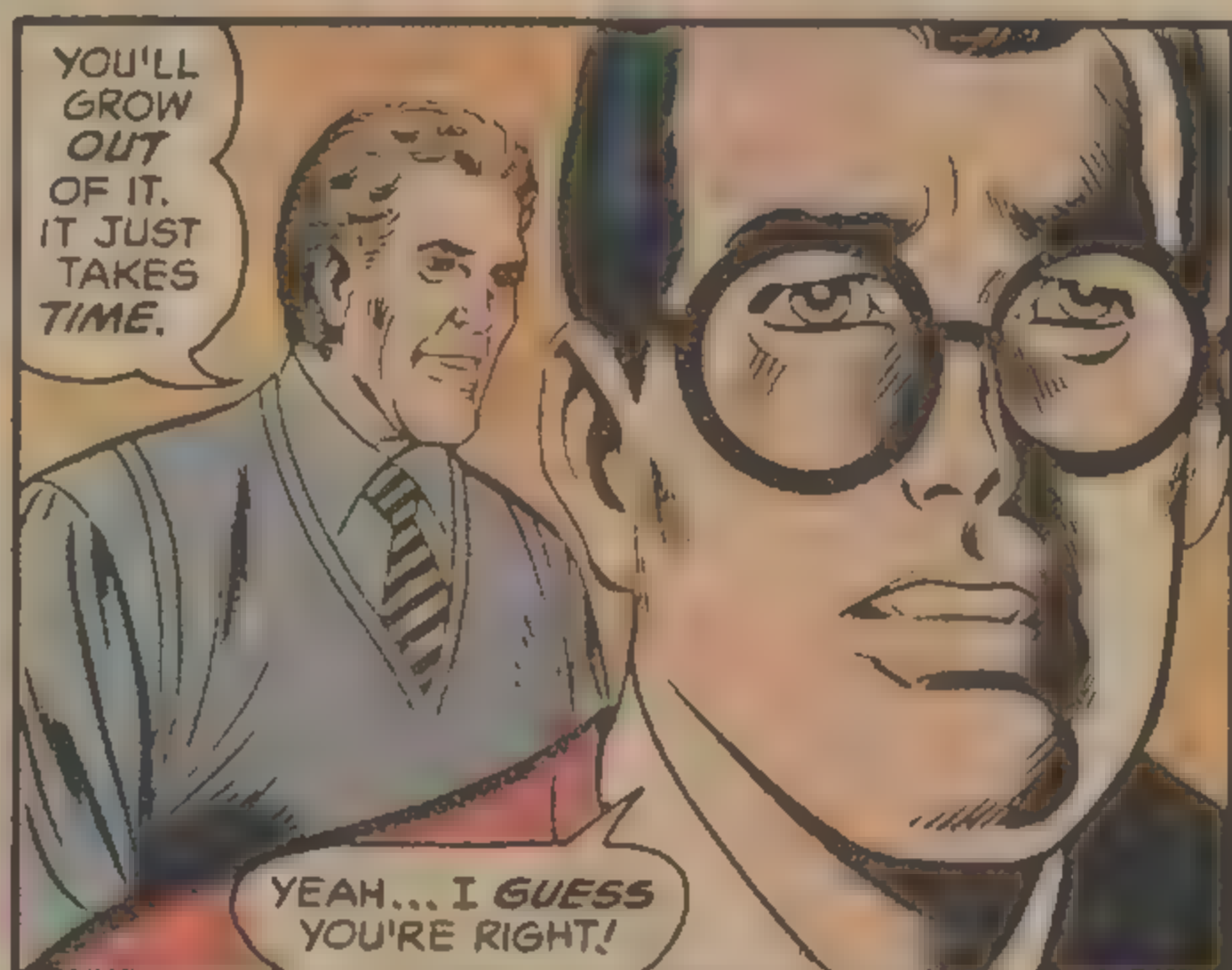
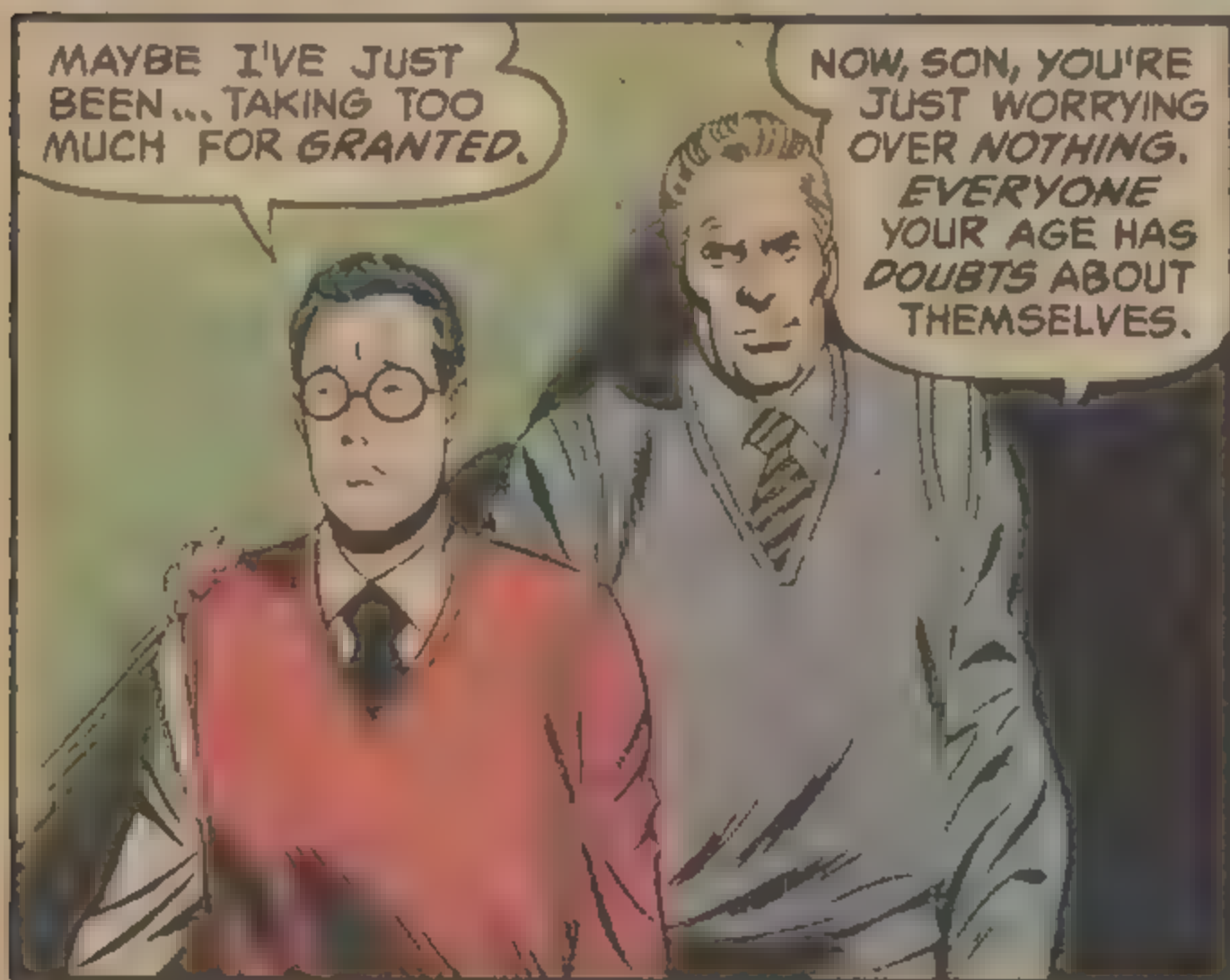
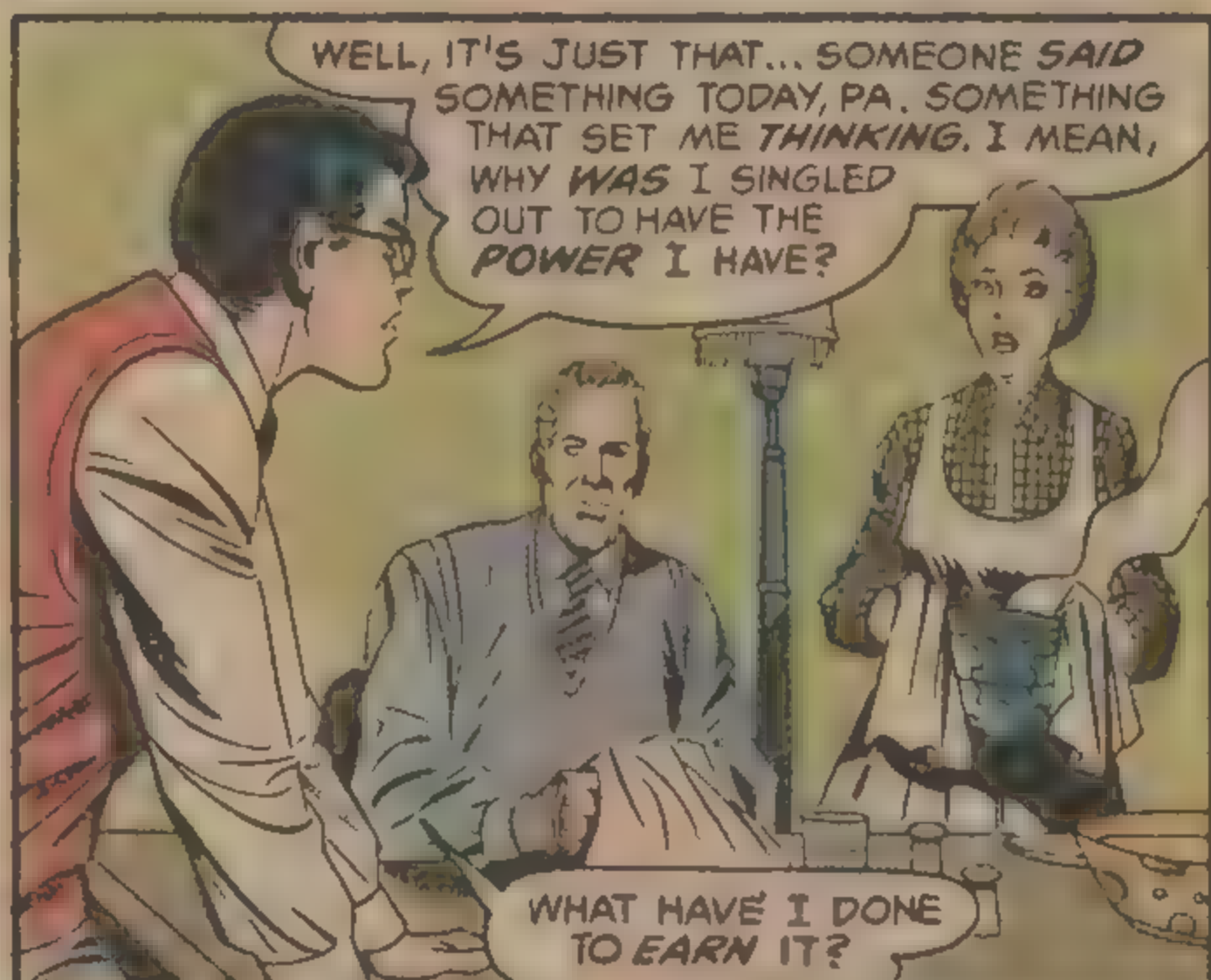
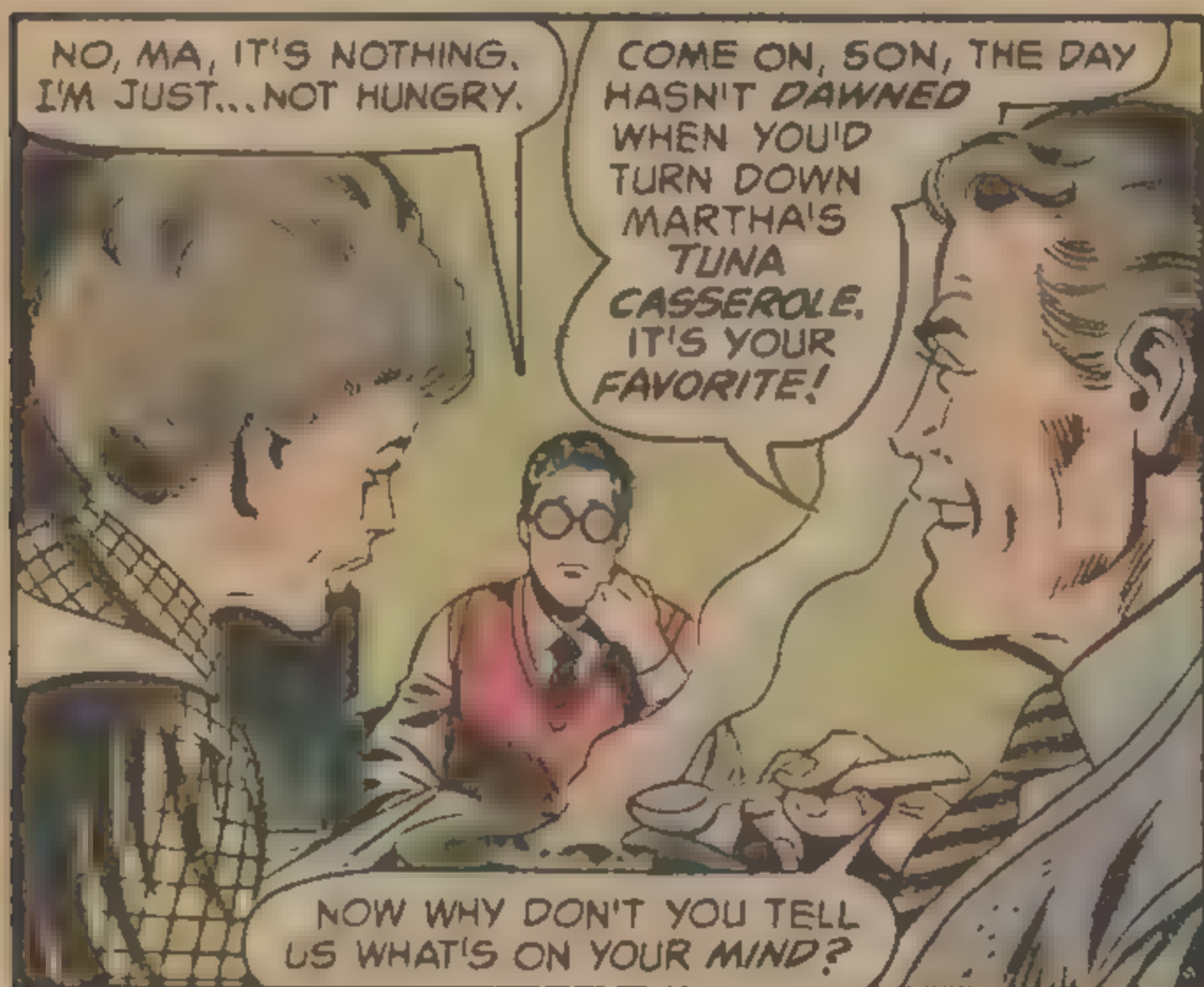


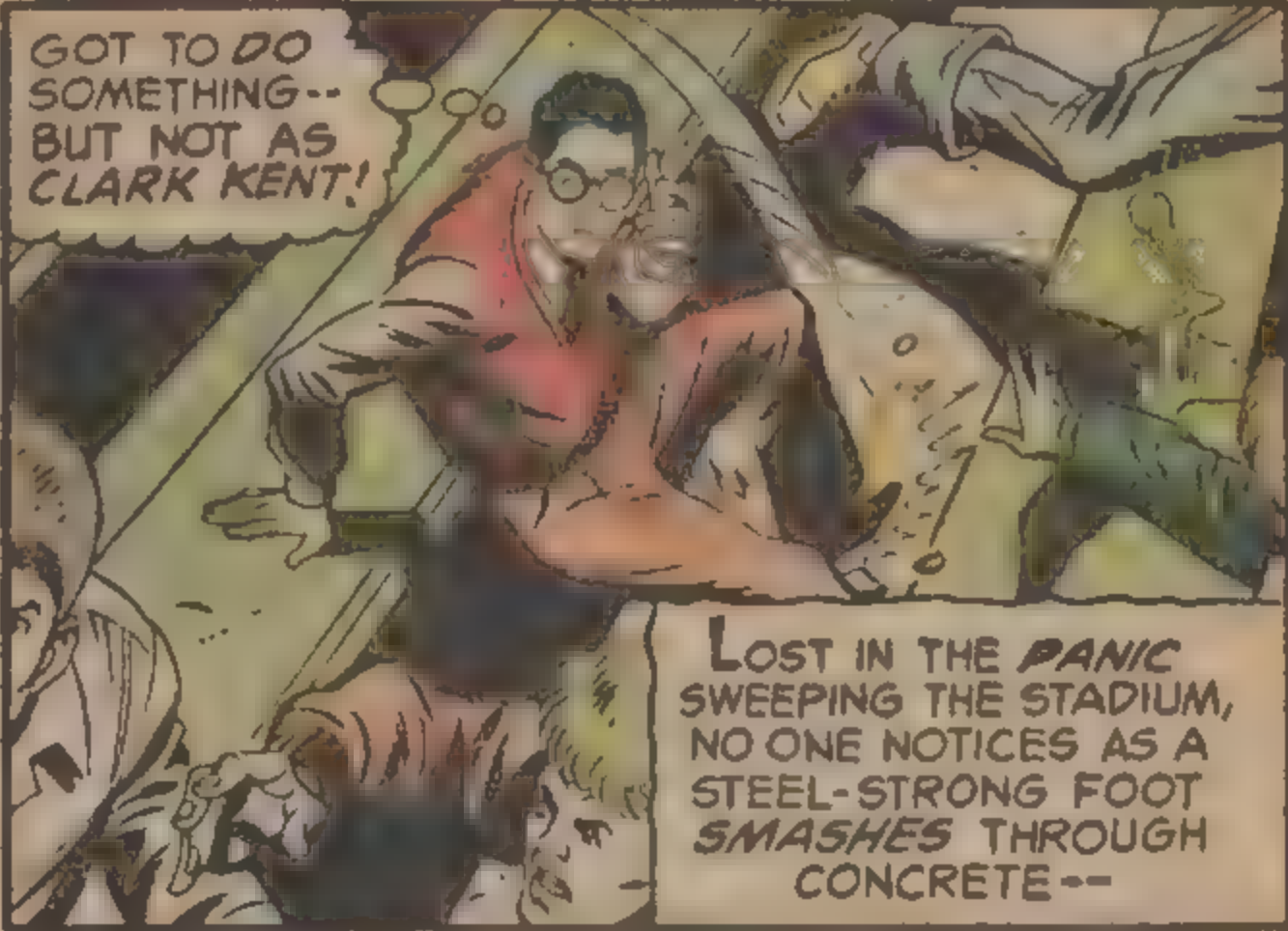
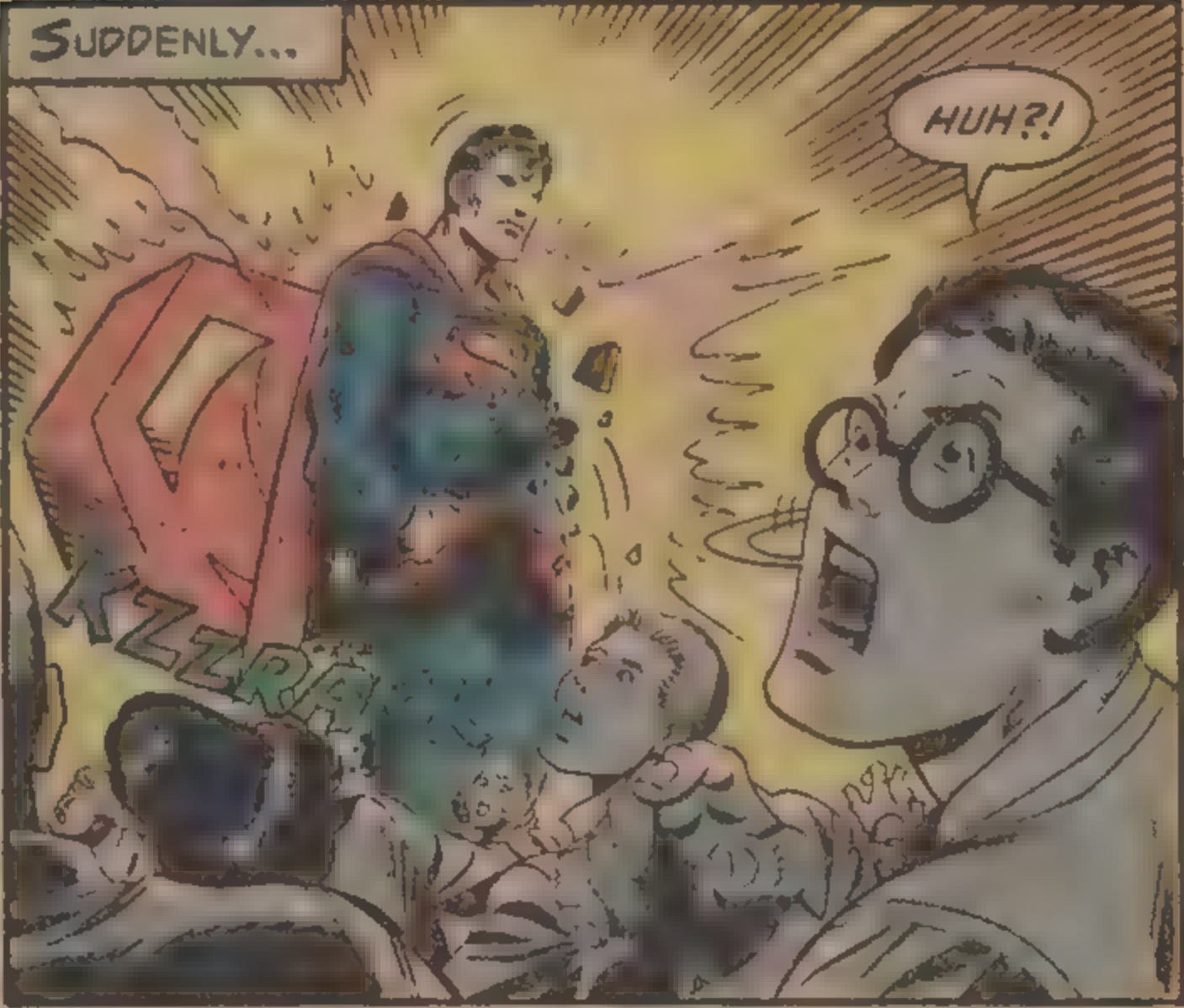
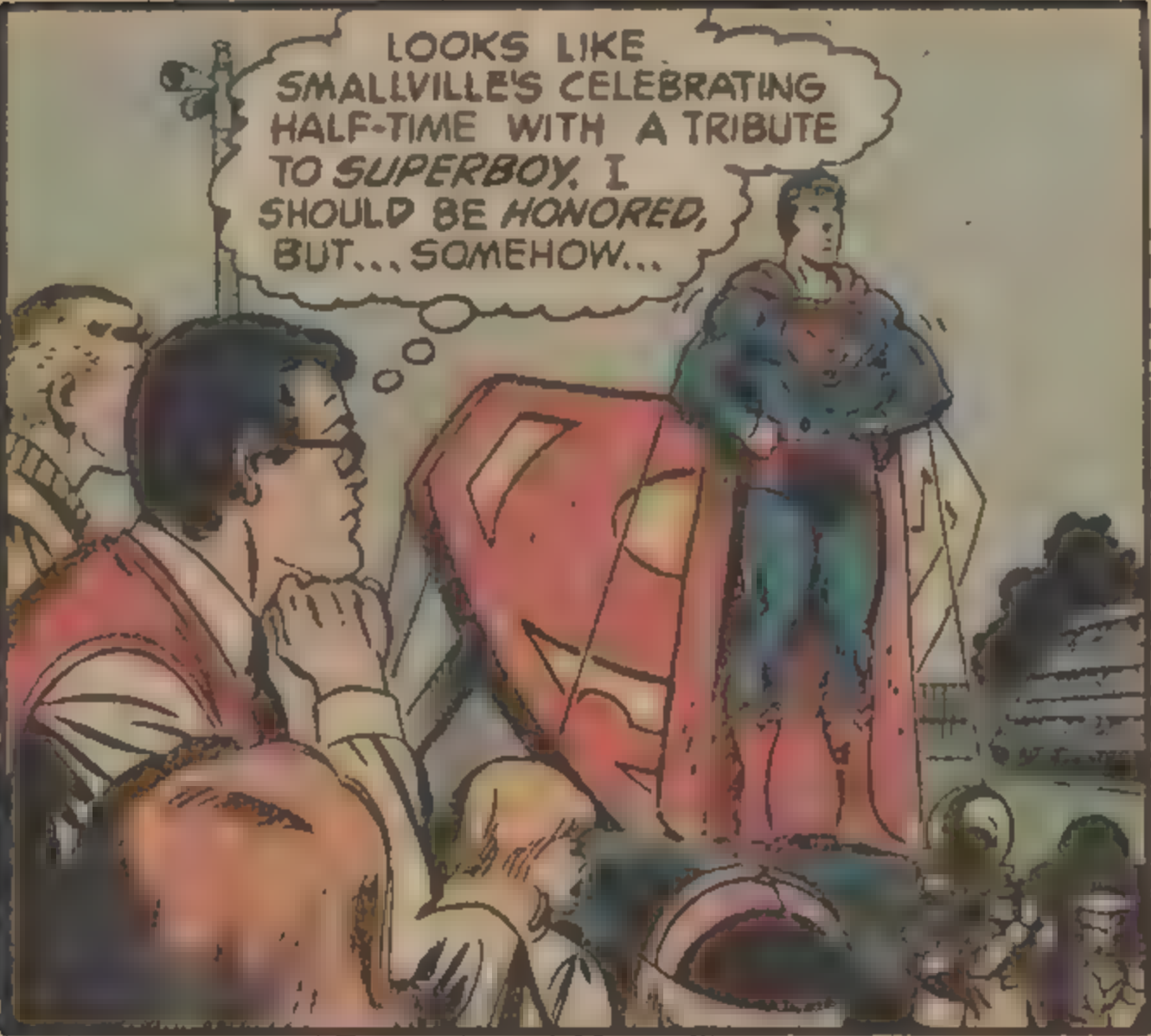
..."SUPER"? IF YOU ASK ME, ALL THOSE BANANAS YOU EAT HAVE GONE TO YOUR BRAIN, BASH--

--OR MAYBE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE THE ONE WITH THE FANCY COSTUME AND POWERS!\*

\*WAY BACK IN SUPERBOY #157--PL







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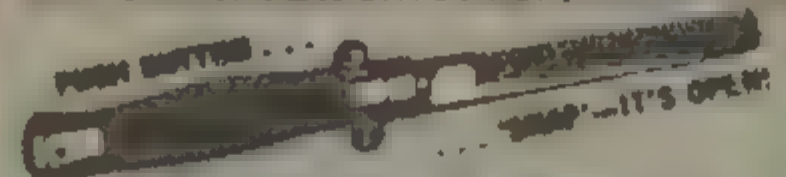
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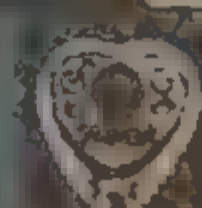
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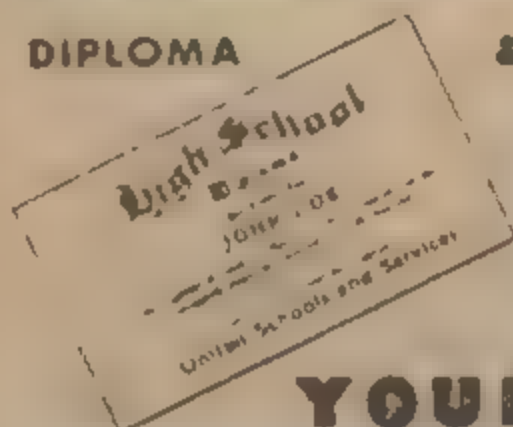
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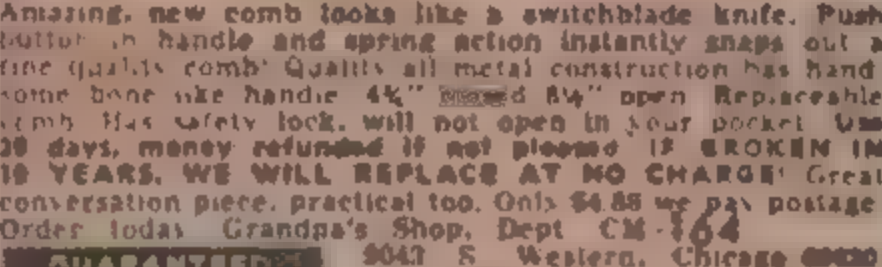
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-- SUPERBOY!

THIS IS THE SECOND  
UNEXPECTED MENACE  
THAT'S JUST "DROPPED  
IN" OUT OF  
NOWHERE!

BAROOMBAY!

AND  
UNLESS MY  
SUPER-VISION  
HAS "DROPPED  
OUT," THEY'VE  
GOT THE  
SAME WEIRD  
GLOW AS THAT  
MONSTER  
AT THE  
CARNIVAL!

BUT  
WHATEVER  
THEY ARE,  
THEY'VE GOT  
TO BE  
STOPPED  
BEFORE--

WHAT--OH, NO!  
BASH!

I'LL SHOW THAT  
SUPER-PUNK THAT  
HE'S NOTHIN' SPECIAL!  
I'LL TAKE ONE OF  
THESE GOONS OUT  
MYSELF!

SMALLVILLE'S ACE QUARTERBACK WILL  
UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SOME CHOICE WORDS  
FOR ME AFTER THIS, BUT I CAN'T LET  
HIM GET HIMSELF HURT!

SO, A QUICK PUFF OF  
SUPER-BREATH--AND  
HE SHOULD "FALL"  
SAFELY INTO THOSE  
TACKLING DUMMIES!

YES, SUPERBOY, HE SHOULD-- BUT...

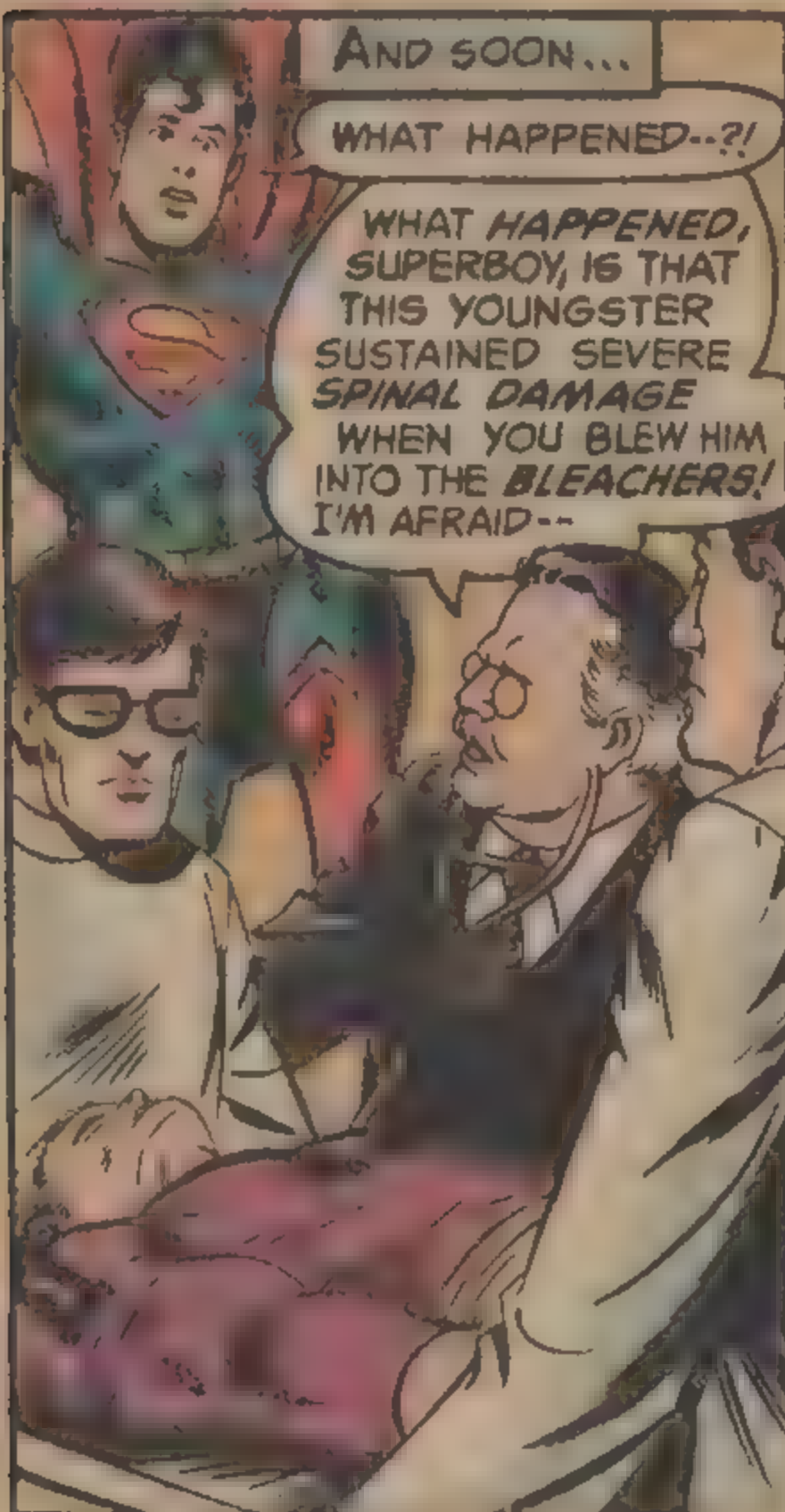
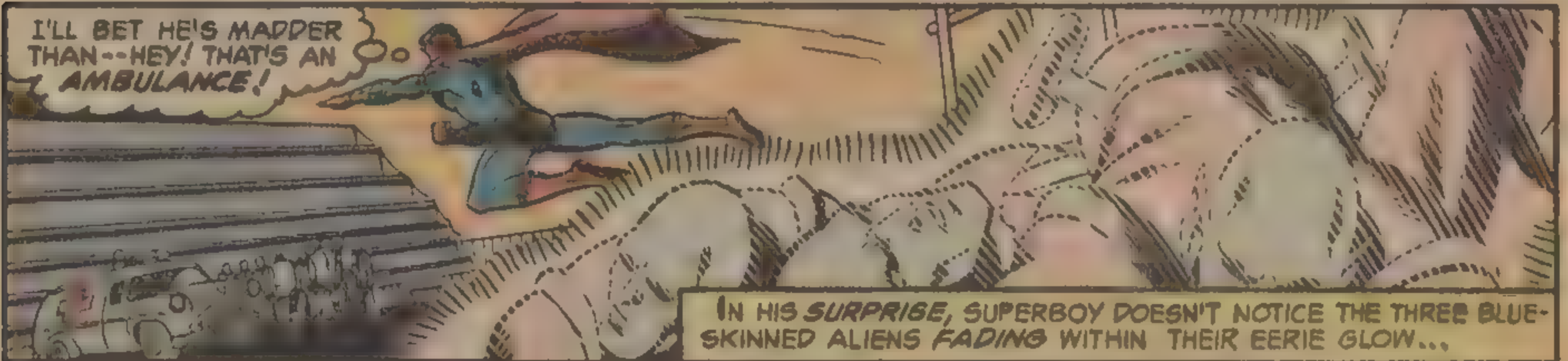
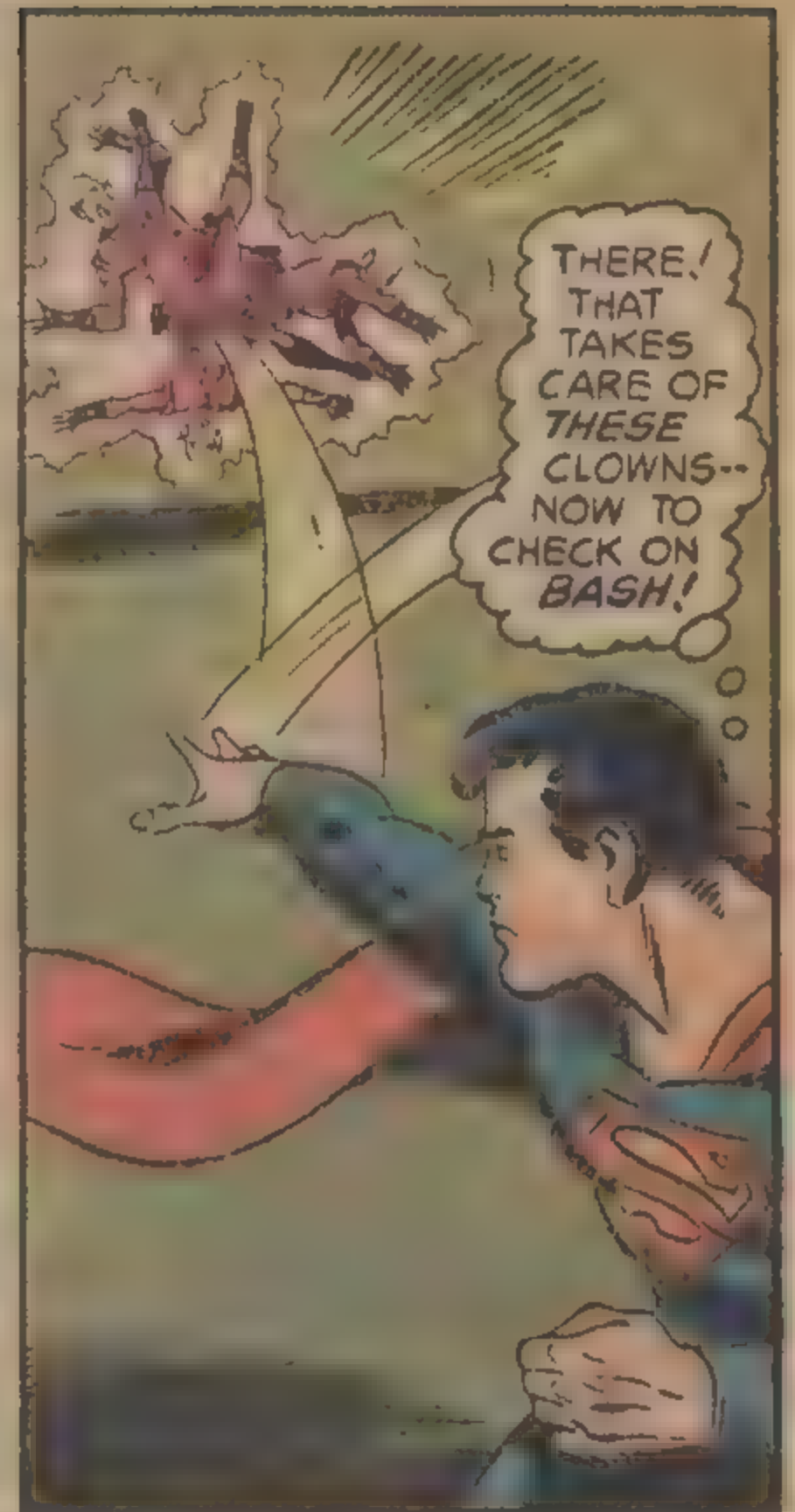
DO YOU FIND  
THIS MOMENT  
SUITABLE,  
GENTLEMEN?

YES, ACTIVATE THE  
DIVERTOR-BEAM--  
NOW!

NOW!

NOW!

AND AT THAT PRECISE SECOND...



FASTEST GROWING SEA-MONKEYS® OF ALL TIME!

# SUPER SEA-MONKEYS®

JUST ADD WATER—CREATE LIVE INSTANT PETS!™

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Imagine! Just add water, and amazing new Super Sea-Monkeys® (Artemia salina) hatch alive right before your eyes! And that's just the start of a multitude of miracles that you will see when you own the most adorable live pets ever to bring smiles, laughter and joy into the American home

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From the very start, new Super Sea-Monkeys® thrill you with wonders that leave you breathless! Born with but one eye in the center of their heads, in a few days they grow two more eyes, making them three eyed "freaks of nature"! When they grow, they shed their middle eye and become "normal" two-eyed sea-creatures. And because new Super Sea-Monkeys® grow so incredibly fast you actually see them getting bigger and BIGGER, day after fun-filled day! Just 21 days after they are born, they are at least 1/2" long, yet they can live a whole year or more!

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With boundless energy, Super Sea-Monkeys® romp and play night and day. So full of fun, you'll never tire watching them swim, race and take turns riding each others backs like cowboys on their ponies. We even show you how to make them appear to obey your commands. At a snap of your fingers they follow a candle beam as if hypnotized, loop-the-loop like circus daredevils and even "dance" to a lively tune! Because Super Sea-Monkeys® eat so little, keep their water so clean, and need just a minimum of care, even an 8-year old child can grow them. If you like the company of pets you'll love owning Super Sea Monkeys®

### INCREDIBLE MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

Since every word you have just read about new Super Sea-Monkeys® is absolutely true, we ship them to you with the most INCREDIBLE UNCONDITIONAL MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE IN HISTORY! You MUST be completely satisfied or you can KEEP EVERYTHING FREE including the Super Sea-Monkeys®, and upon your request we will IMMEDIATELY REFUND YOUR MONEY IN FULL right down to the LAST PENNY!

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200 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10010

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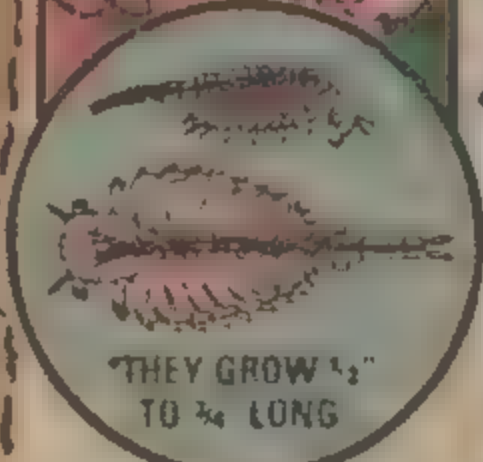
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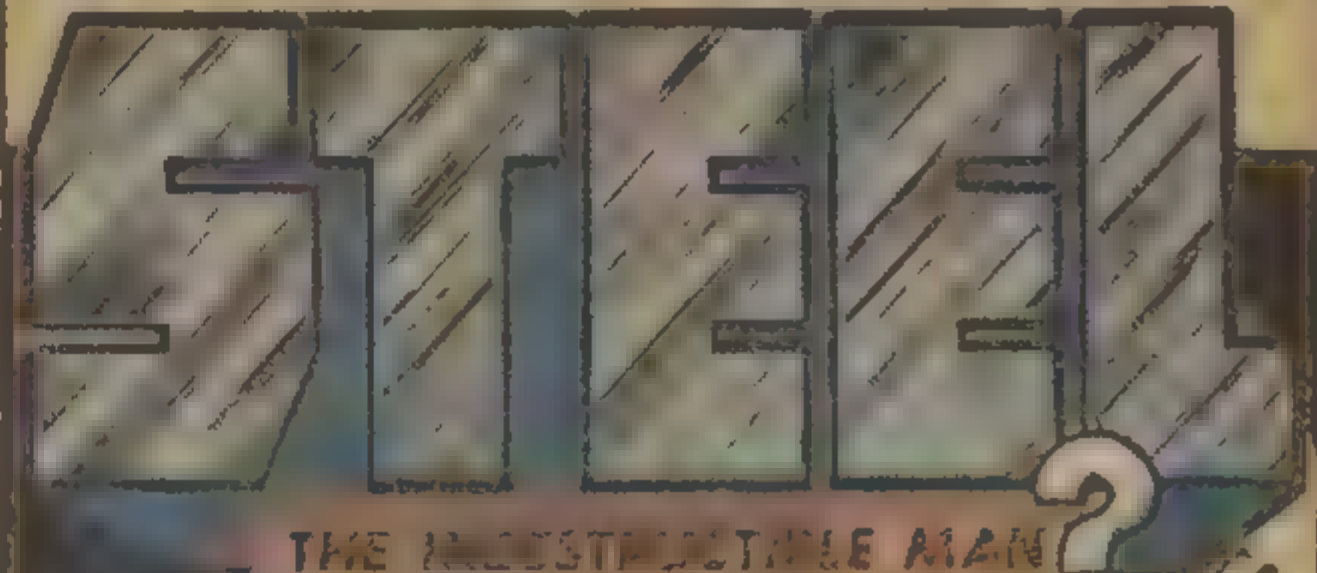
ONCE AGAIN--  
THE MIGHTIEST  
OF THEM ALL!

DON'T DARE MISS

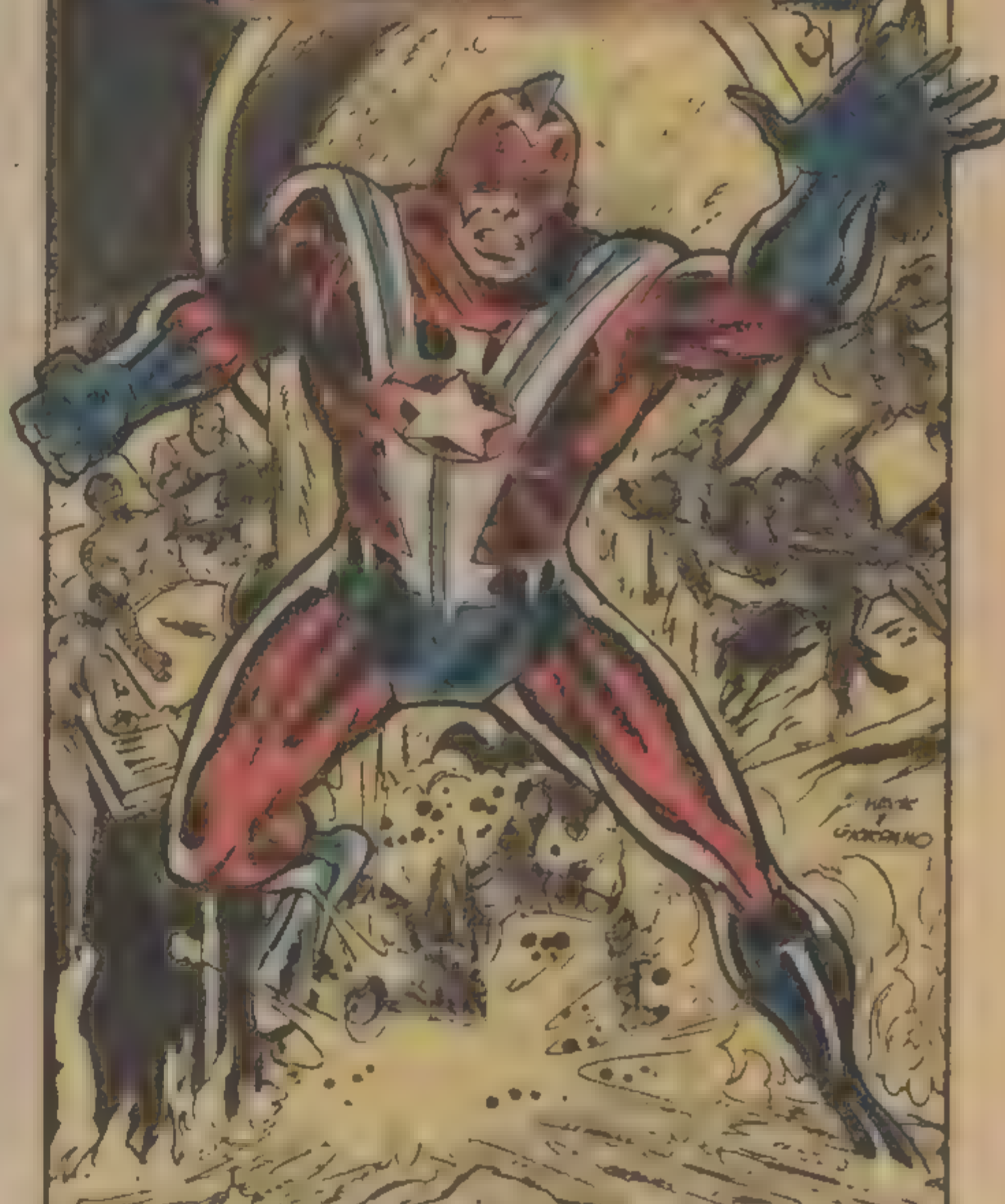
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WHAT IS THE  
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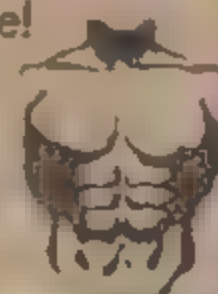
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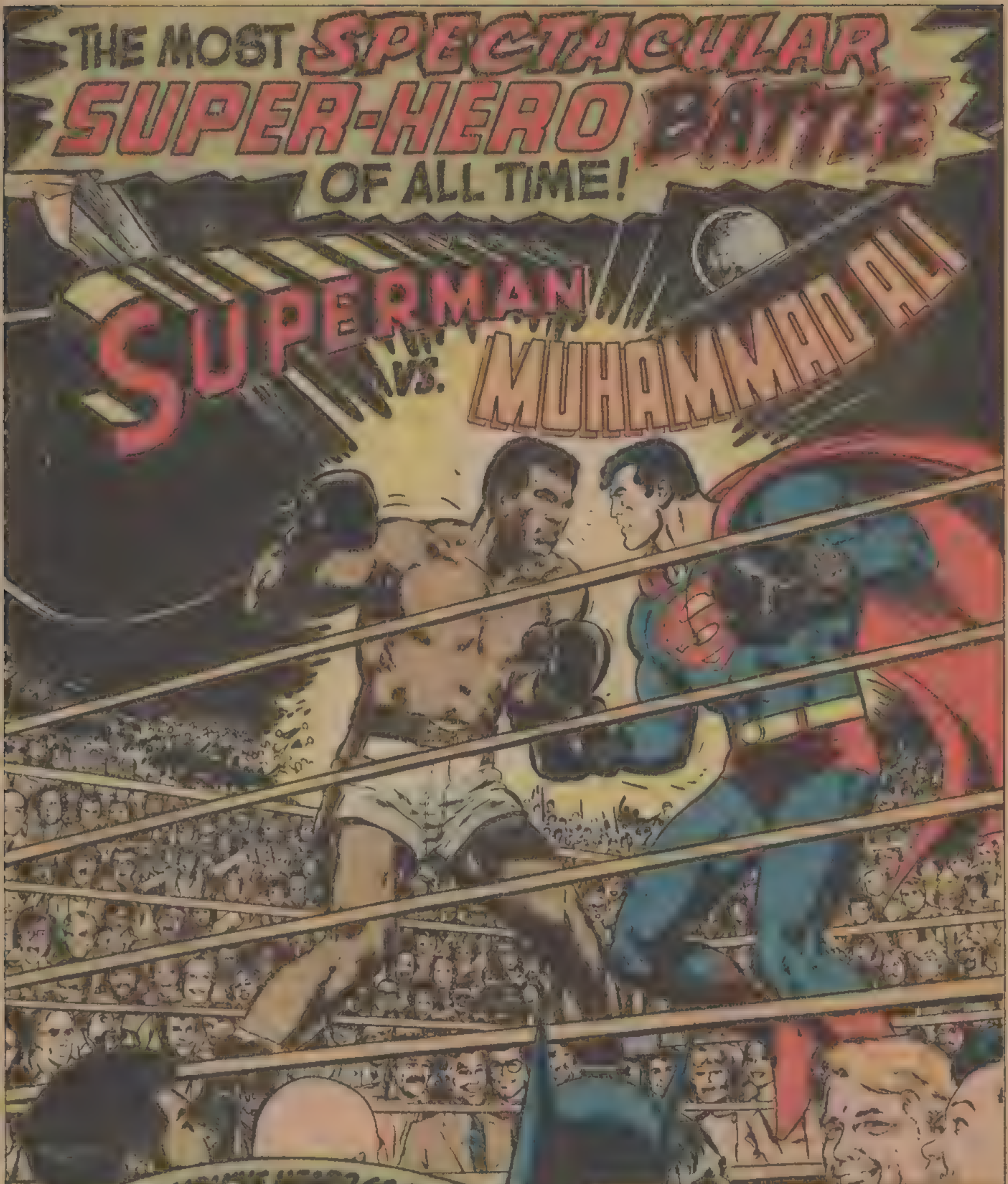
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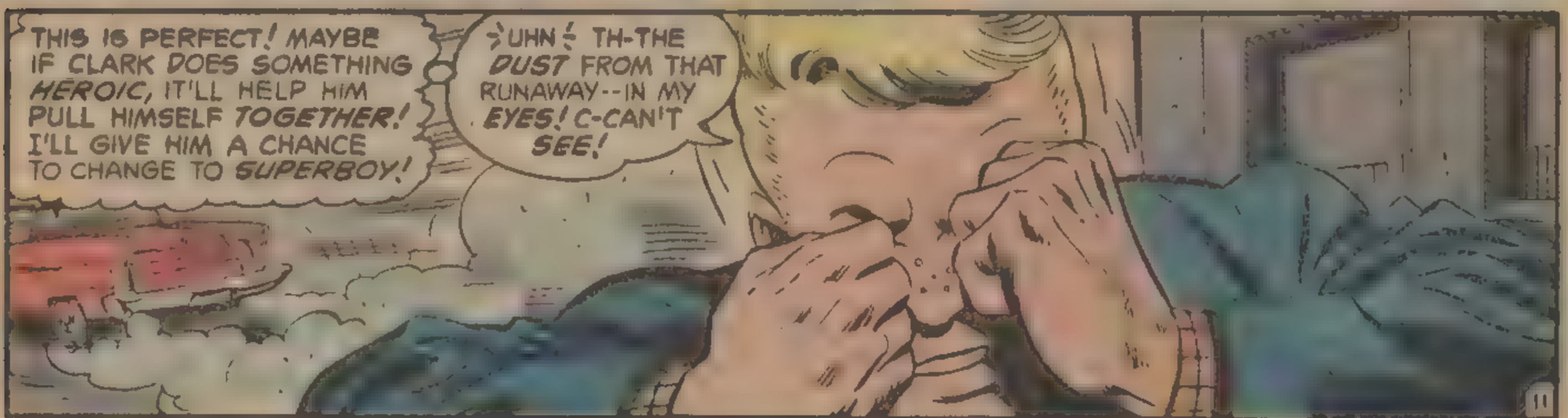
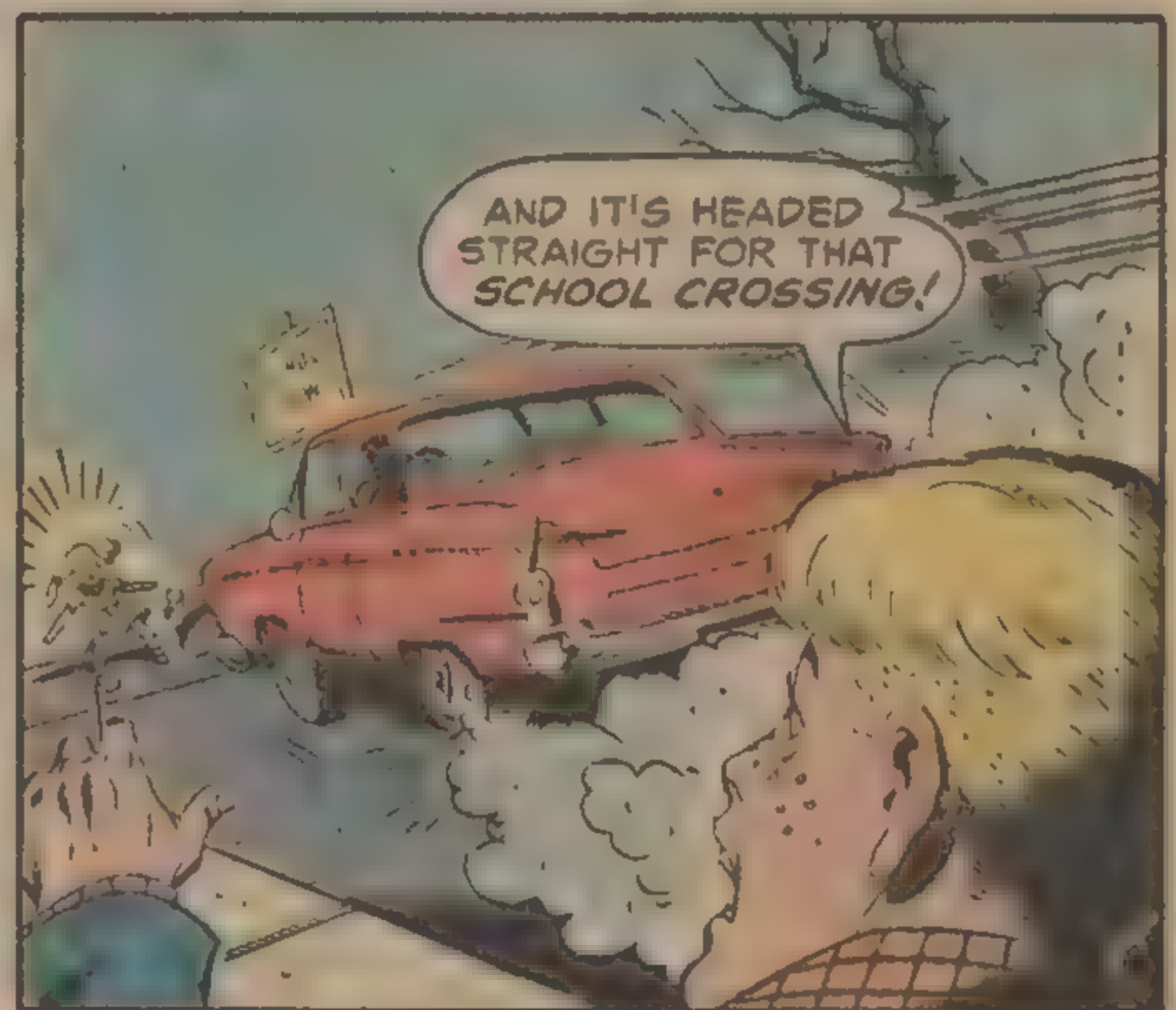
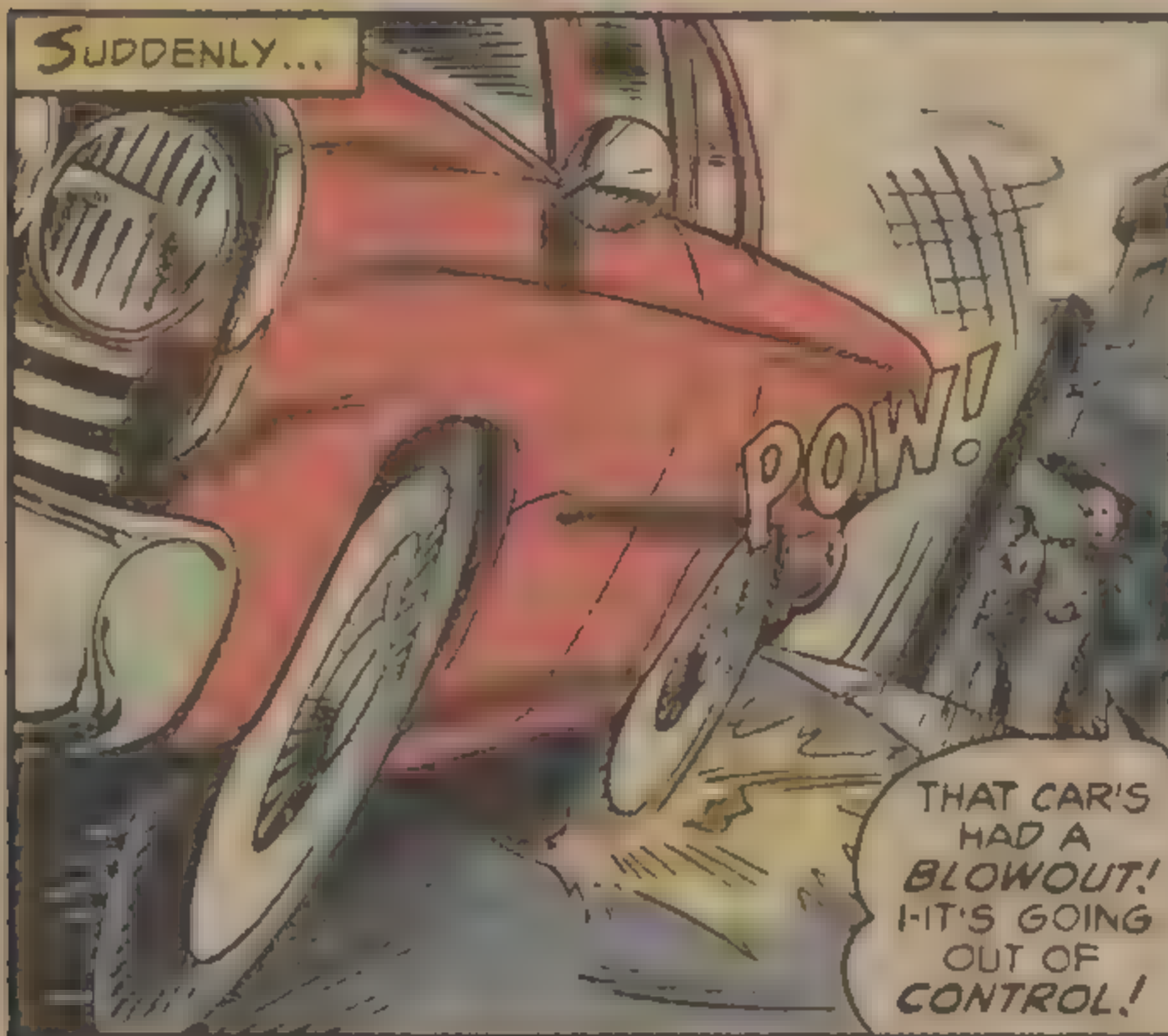
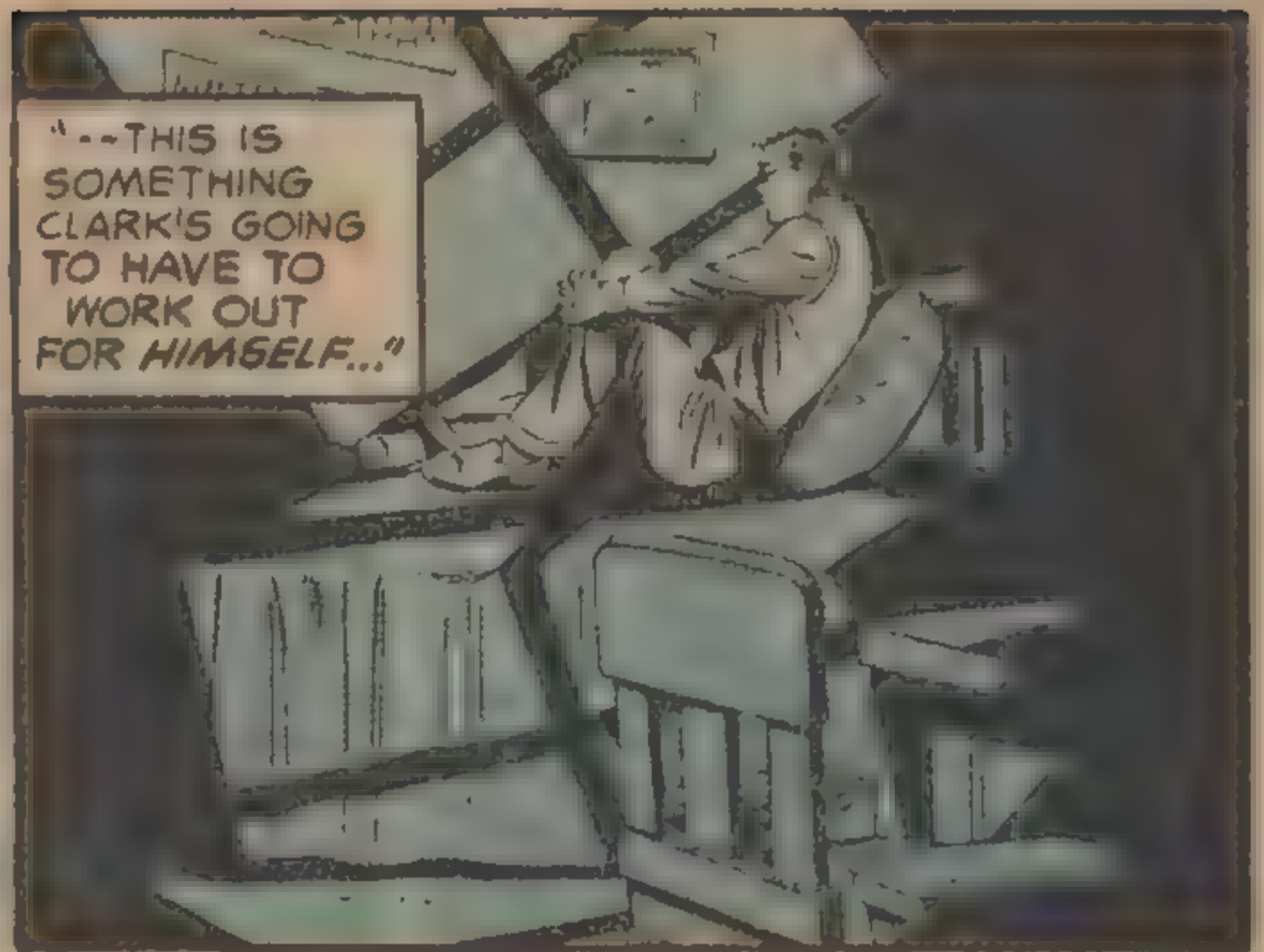
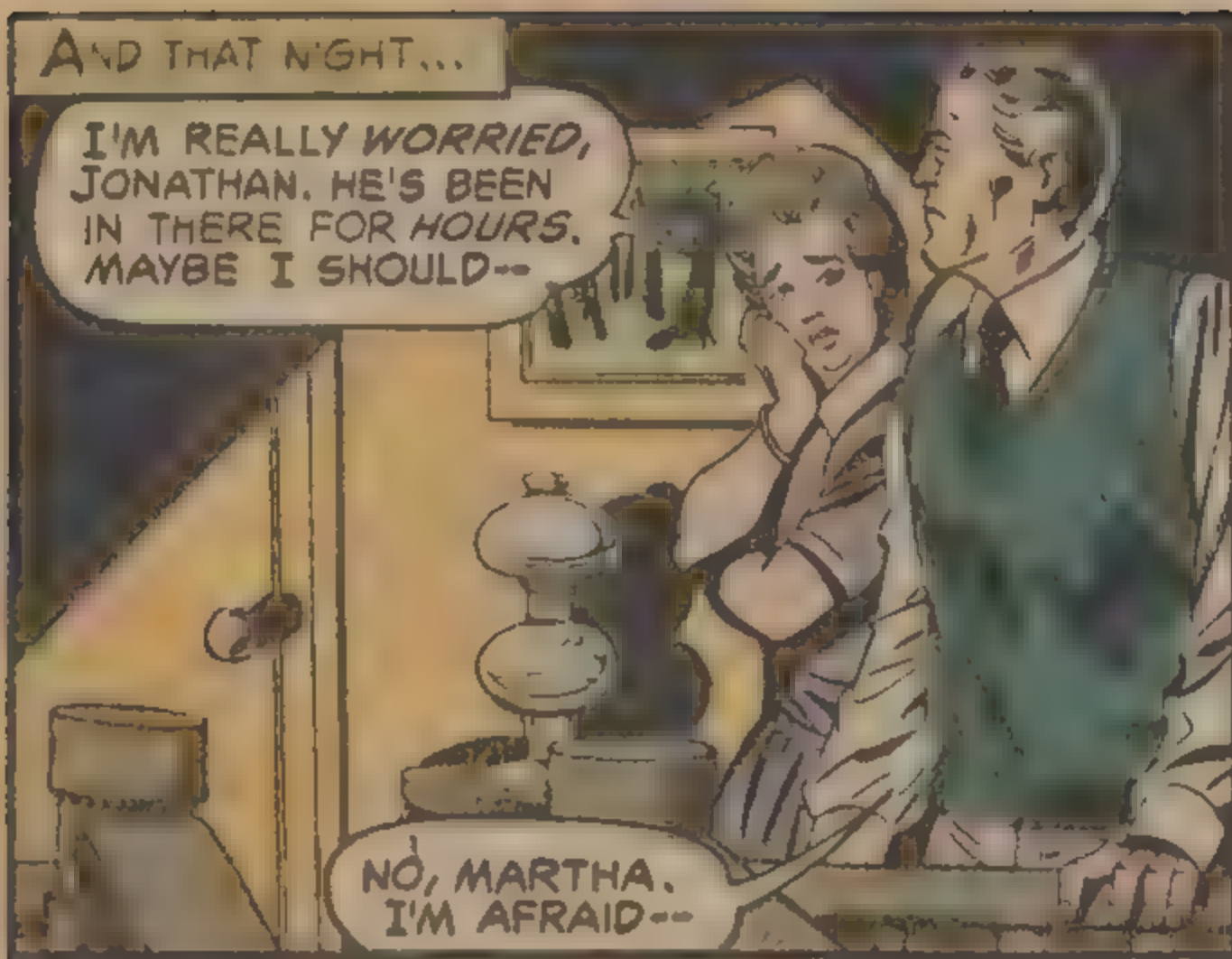
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HOWEVER...

HUH?! H-HE'S  
JUST  
STANDING  
THERE!  
L-LIKE HE  
WAS--

--SCARED  
STIFF!

BUT, FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE  
OTHERS WHO ARE NOT!

C...CLARK...?

AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THERE  
IS BUT ONE QUESTION ON THE LIPS  
OF THE WORLD--

--WHERE IS  
SUPERBOY?

A QUESTION  
THAT IS  
ECHOED IN  
OUTER  
SPACE, AS...

THIS IS DREADFUL! HOW CAN  
WE CONTINUE OUR FASCINATING  
EXPERIMENT--

--WITHOUT THE  
SUBJECT?

DON'T WORRY, GENTLEMEN. I  
THINK WE'LL BE SEEING OUR  
RELUCTANT HERO AGAIN... SOON!

CONTINUED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING

# STRONG ARMS

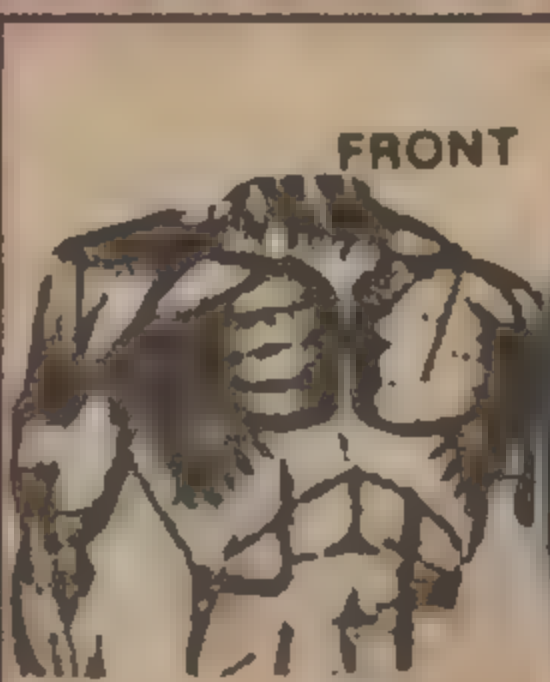
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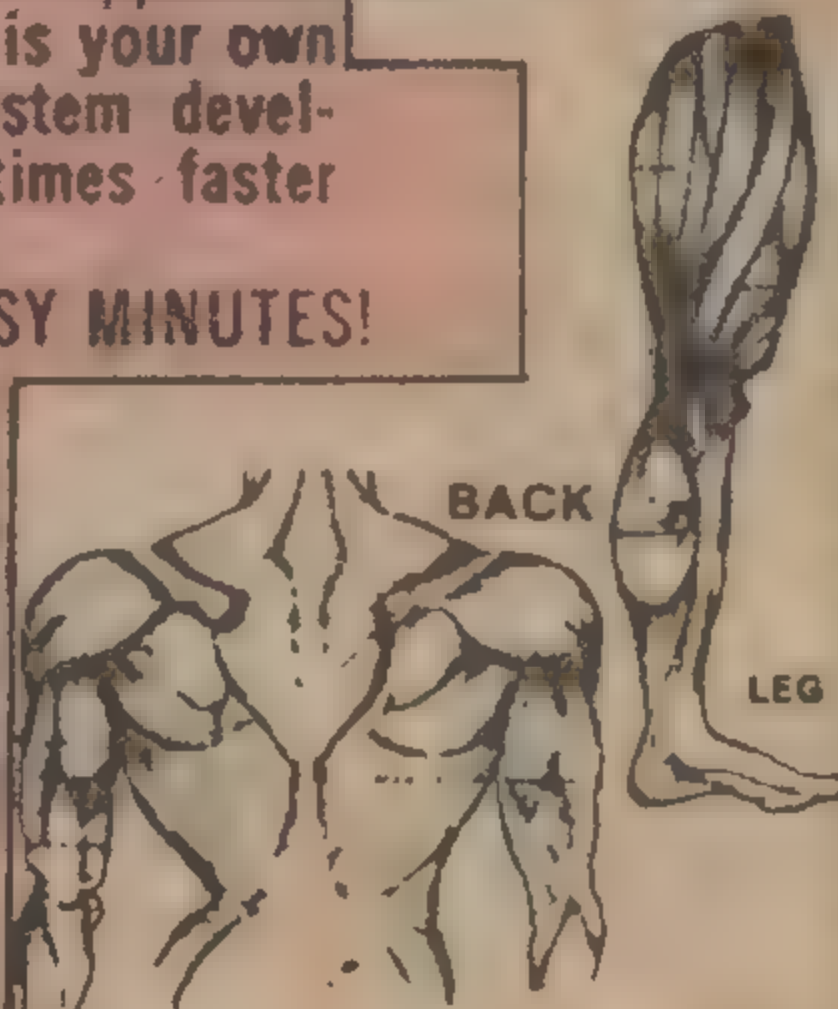
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FRONT



BACK



LEG

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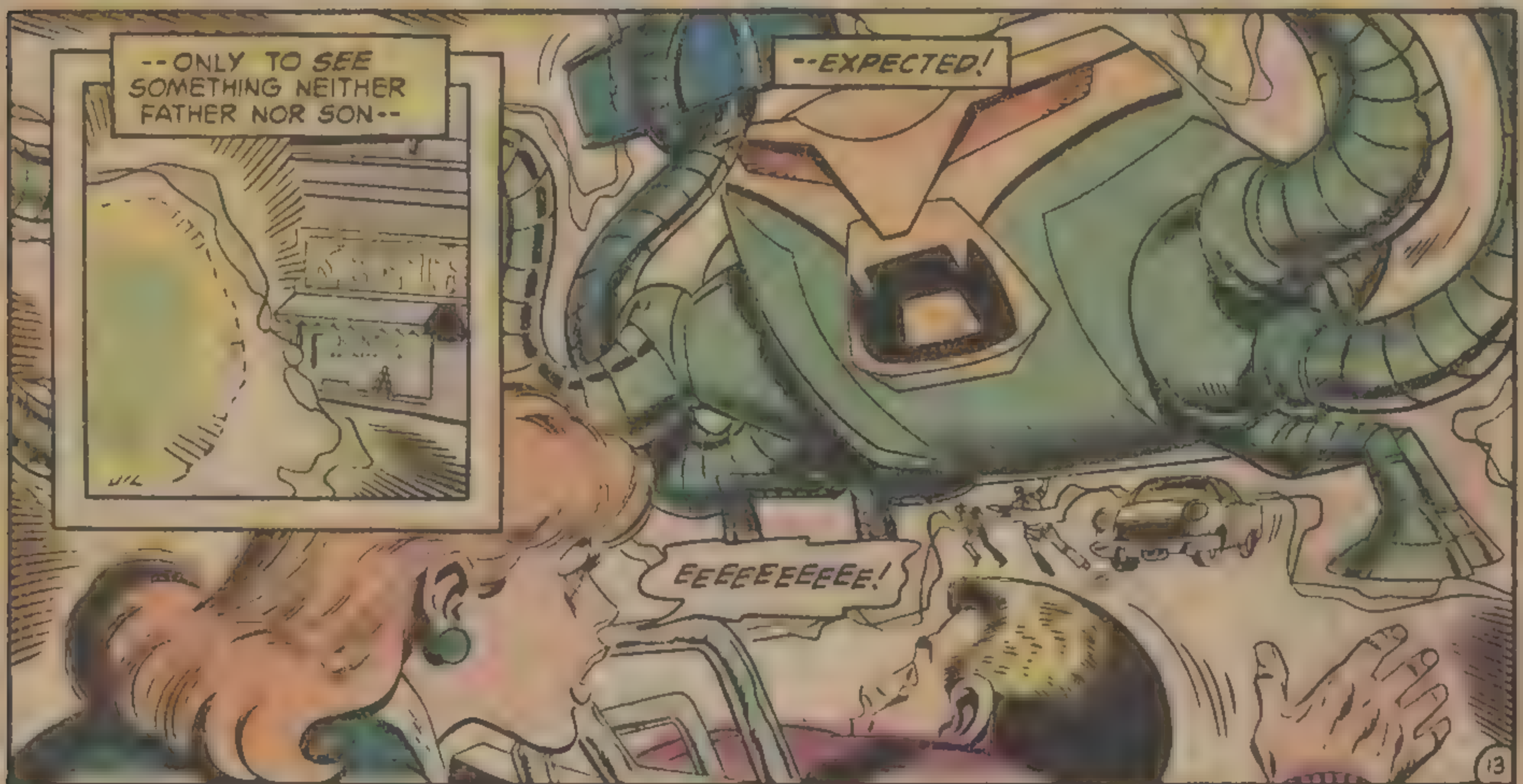
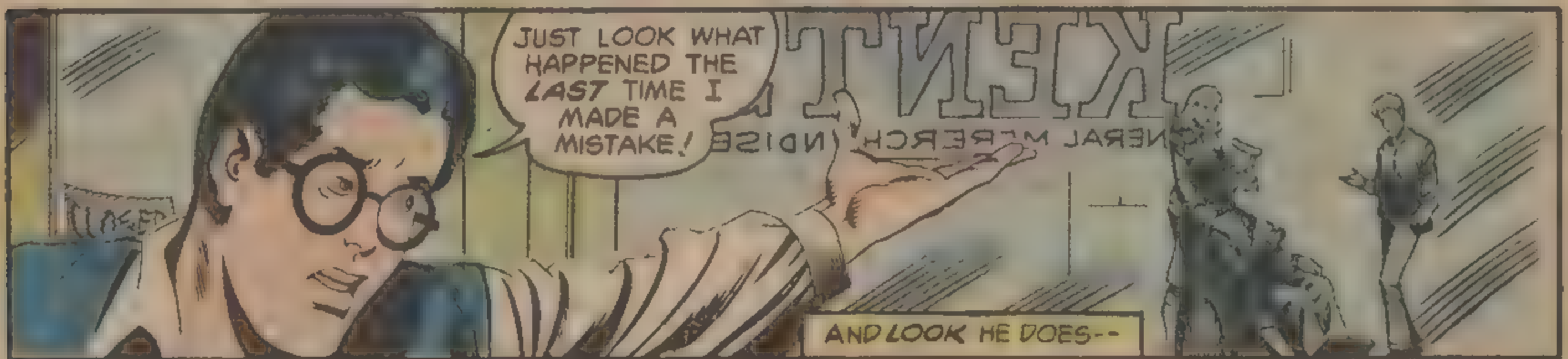
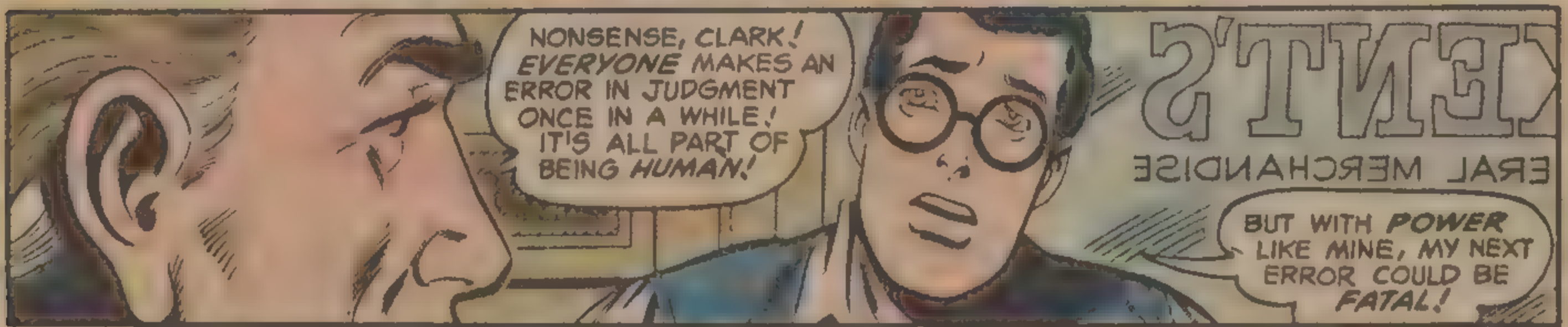
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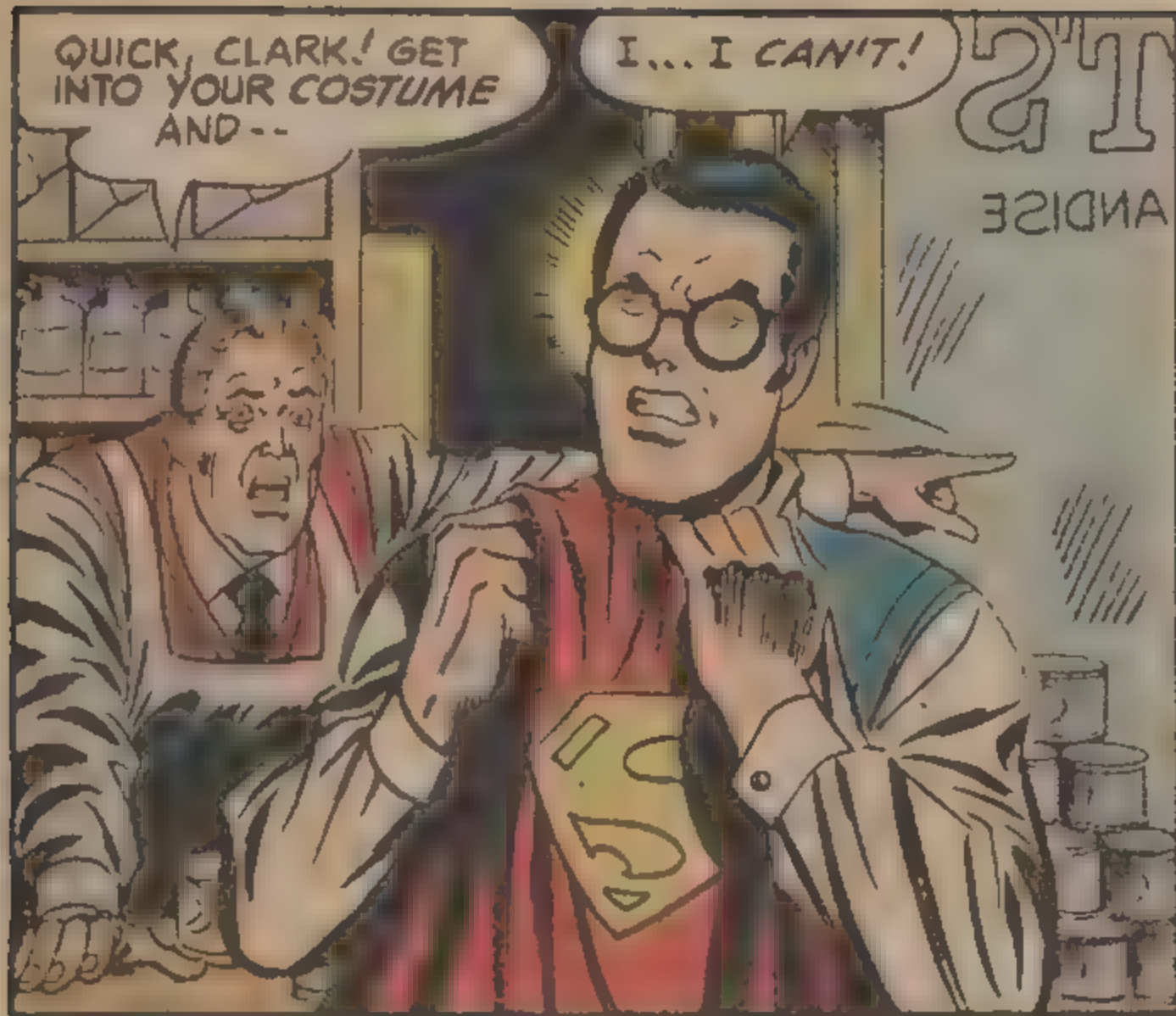
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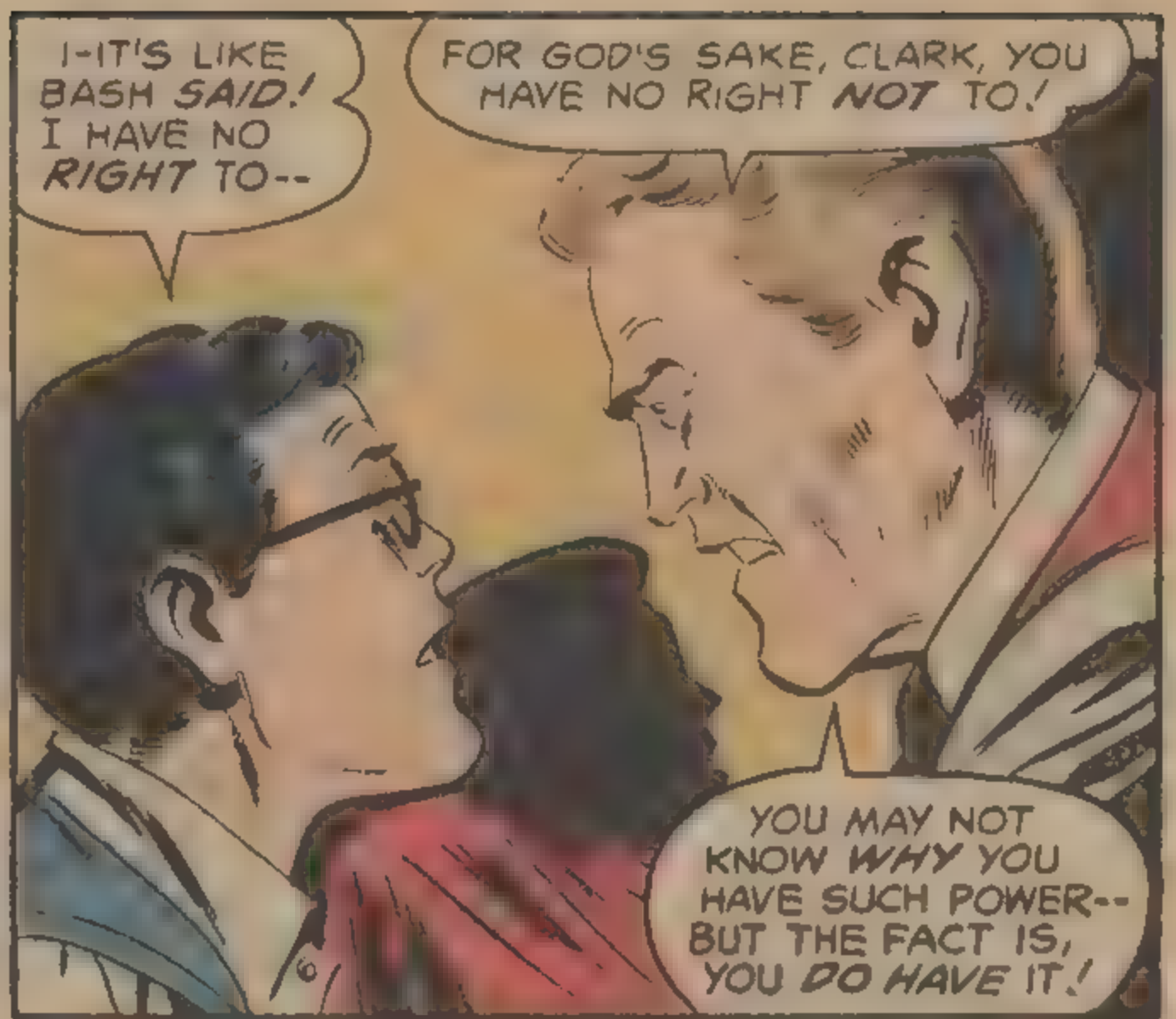




QUICK, CLARK! GET INTO YOUR COSTUME AND--

I... I CAN'T!

ANDISE



I-IT'S LIKE BASH SAID! I HAVE NO RIGHT TO--

FOR GOD'S SAKE, CLARK, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT NOT TO!

YOU MAY NOT KNOW WHY YOU HAVE SUCH POWER-- BUT THE FACT IS, YOU DO HAVE IT!



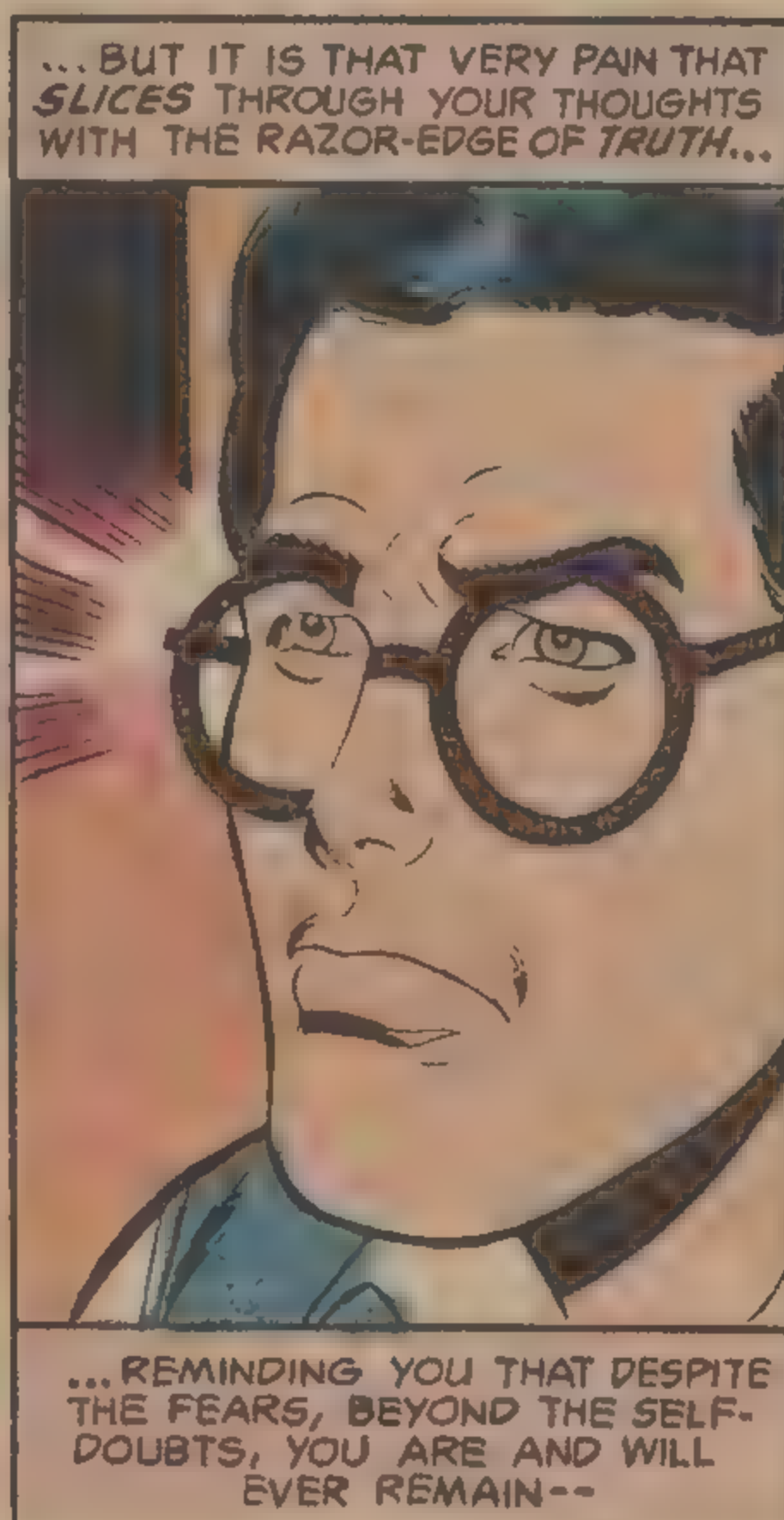
"AND LETTING HARM COME TO SOMEONE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T USE IT IS THE BIGGEST BLUNDER YOU COULD EVER MAKE!"



YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY, SON! AND IF YOU DON'T MEET IT--

--NOBODY ELSE CAN!

THE WORDS ARE COLD, CLARK KENT, AND THEY STING...

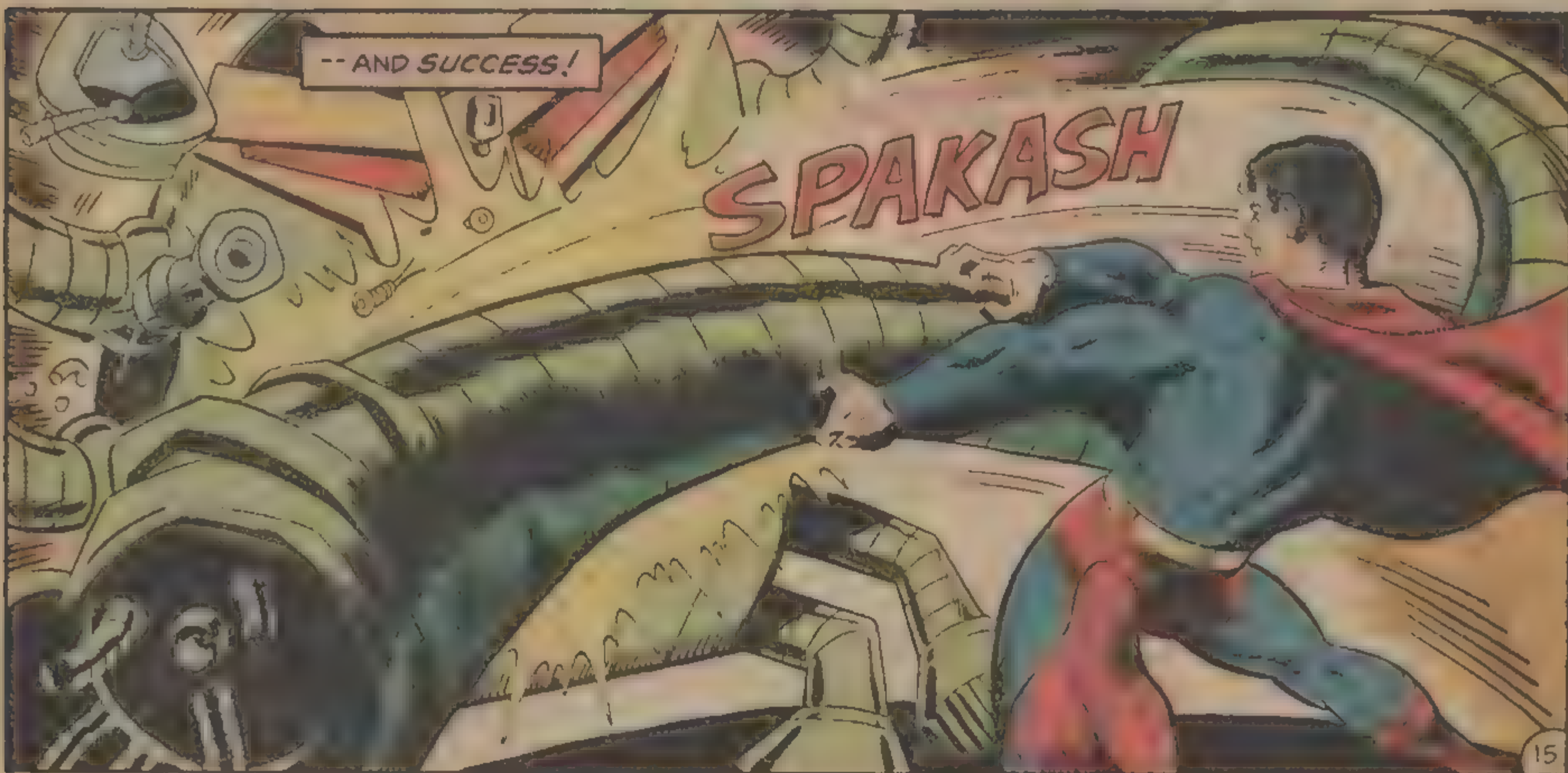
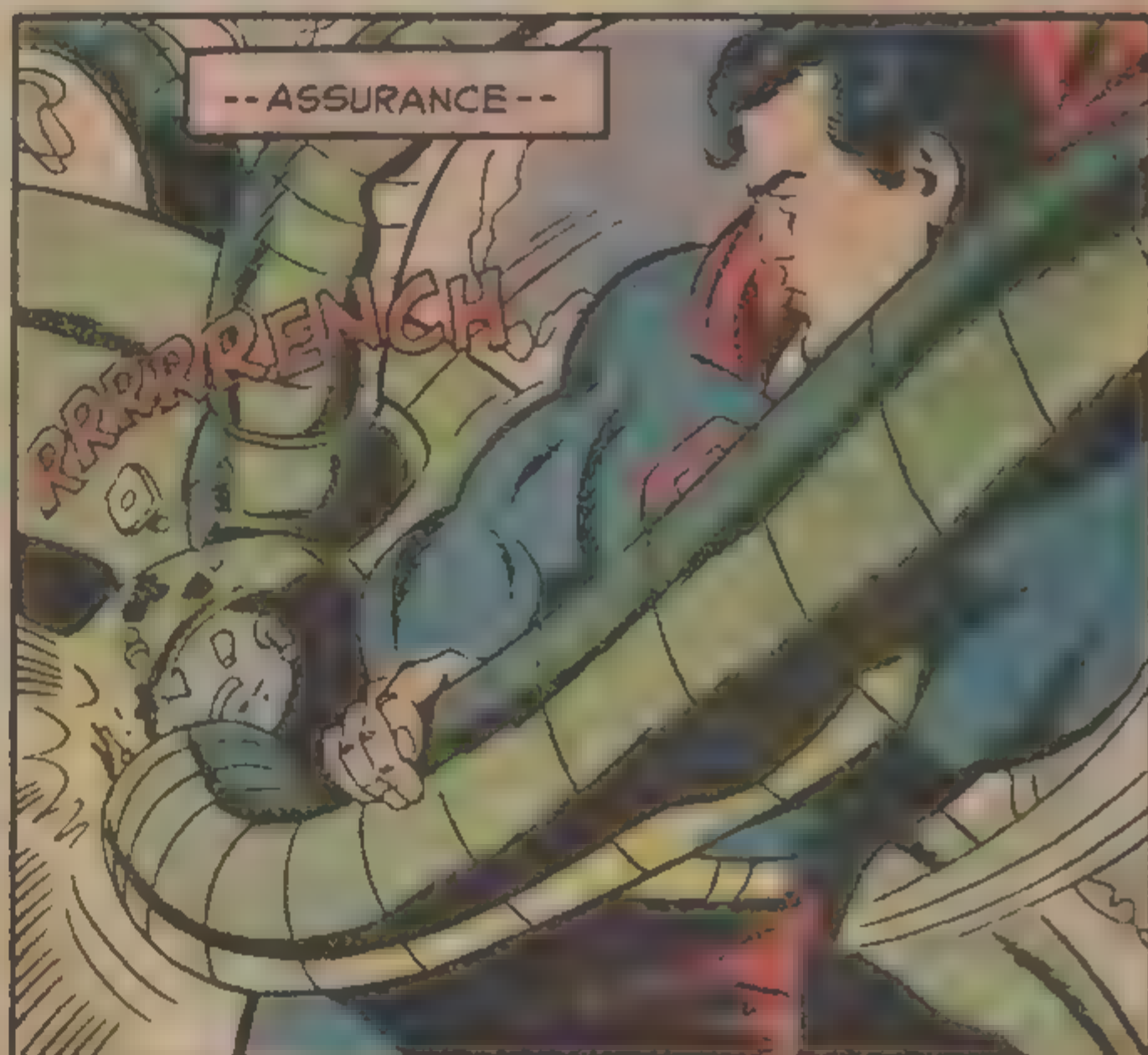
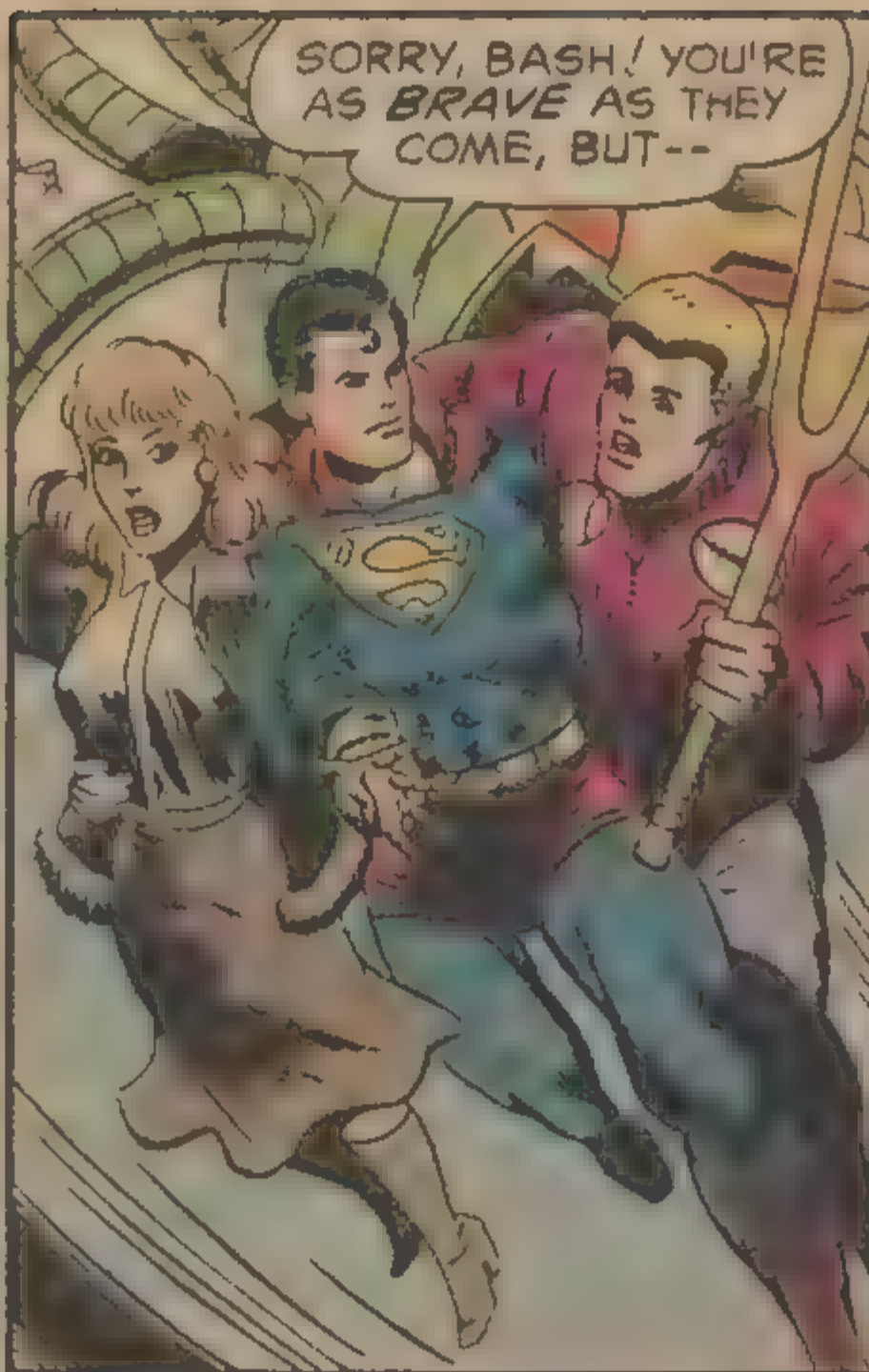


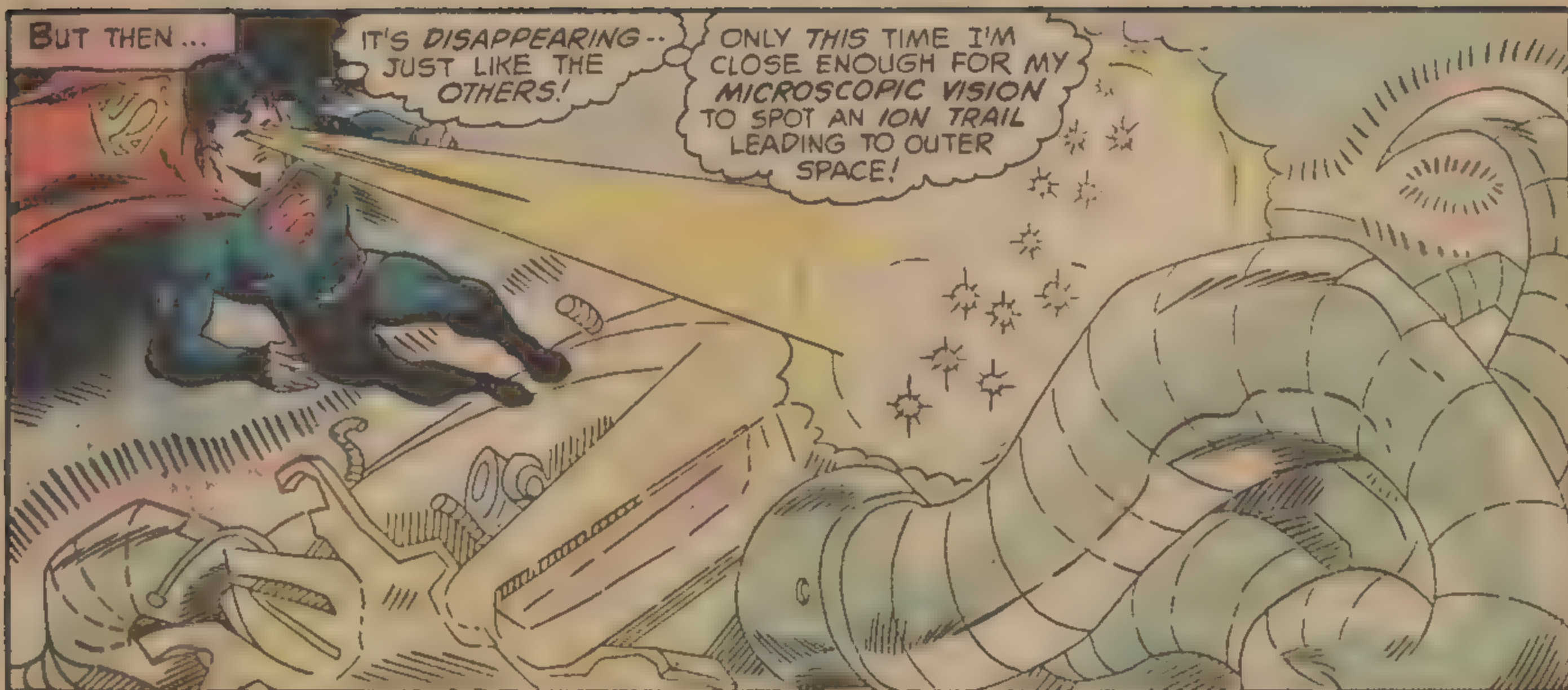
... BUT IT IS THAT VERY PAIN THAT SLICES THROUGH YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THE RAZOR-EDGE OF TRUTH...

... REMINDING YOU THAT DESPITE THE FEARS, BEYOND THE SELF-DOUBTS, YOU ARE AND WILL EVER REMAIN--



--SUPERBOY!

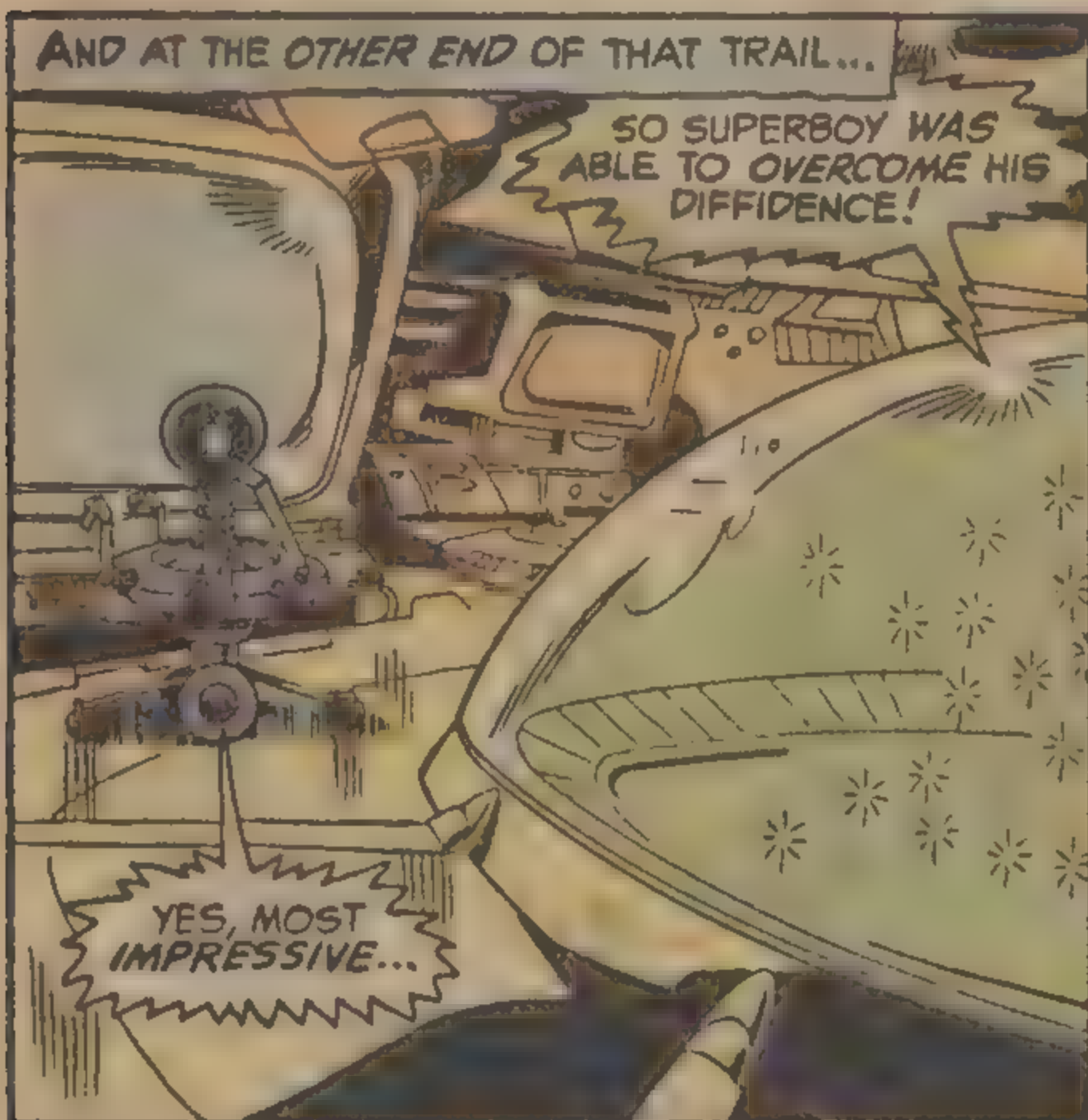




BUT THEN...

IT'S DISAPPEARING--  
JUST LIKE THE  
OTHERS!

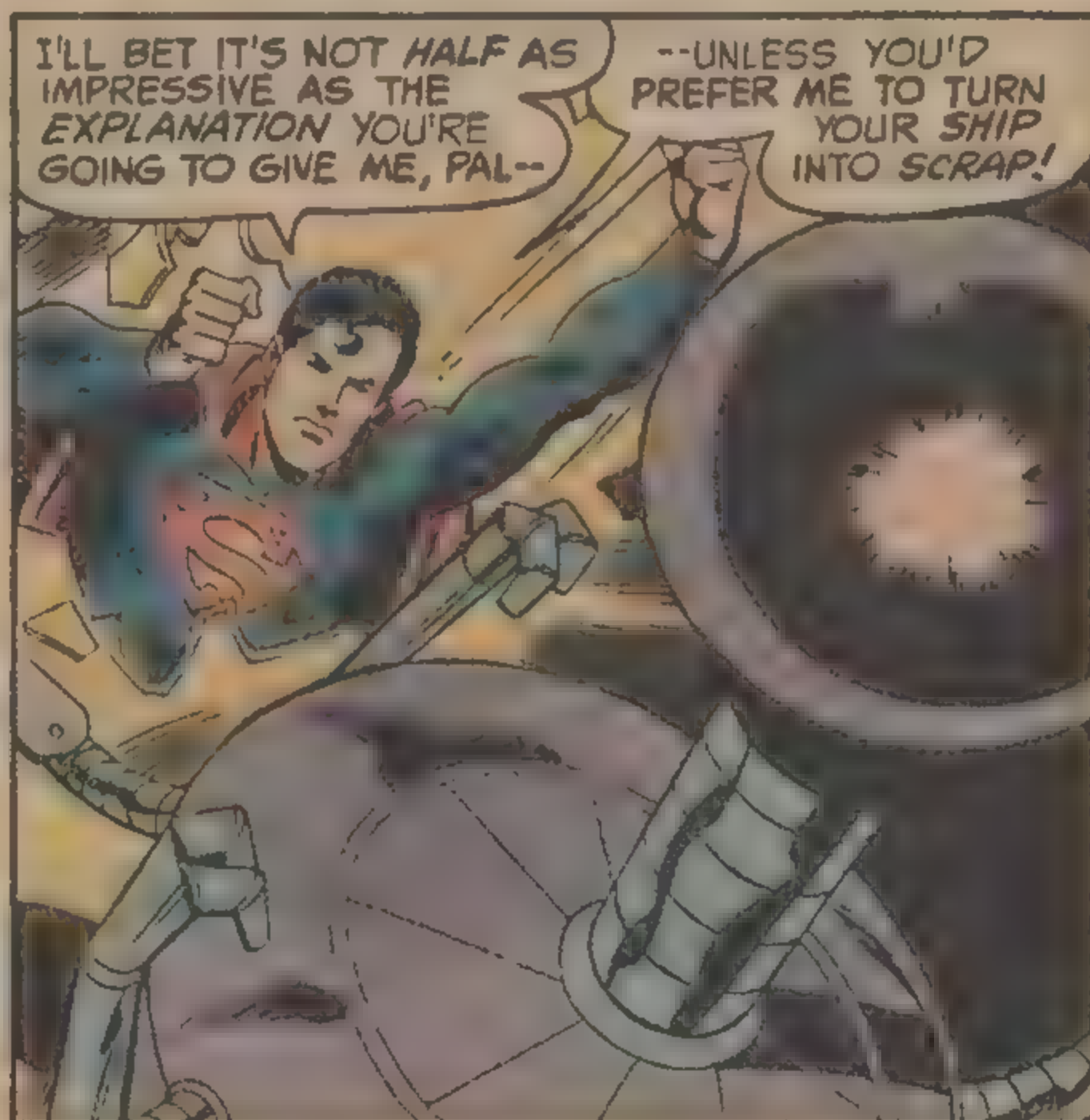
ONLY THIS TIME I'M  
CLOSE ENOUGH FOR MY  
MICROSCOPIC VISION  
TO SPOT AN ION TRAIL  
LEADING TO OUTER  
SPACE!



AND AT THE OTHER END OF THAT TRAIL...

SO SUPERBOY WAS  
ABLE TO OVERCOME HIS  
DIFFIDENCE!

YES, MOST  
IMPRESSIVE...



I'LL BET IT'S NOT HALF AS  
IMPRESSIVE AS THE  
EXPLANATION YOU'RE  
GOING TO GIVE ME, PAL--

--UNLESS YOU'D  
PREFER ME TO TURN  
YOUR SHIP  
INTO SCRAP!



THEY DON'T--  
AND SOON...

YOU SEE, WE  
REALLY MEANT  
NO HARM.

NO, NONE  
AT ALL!

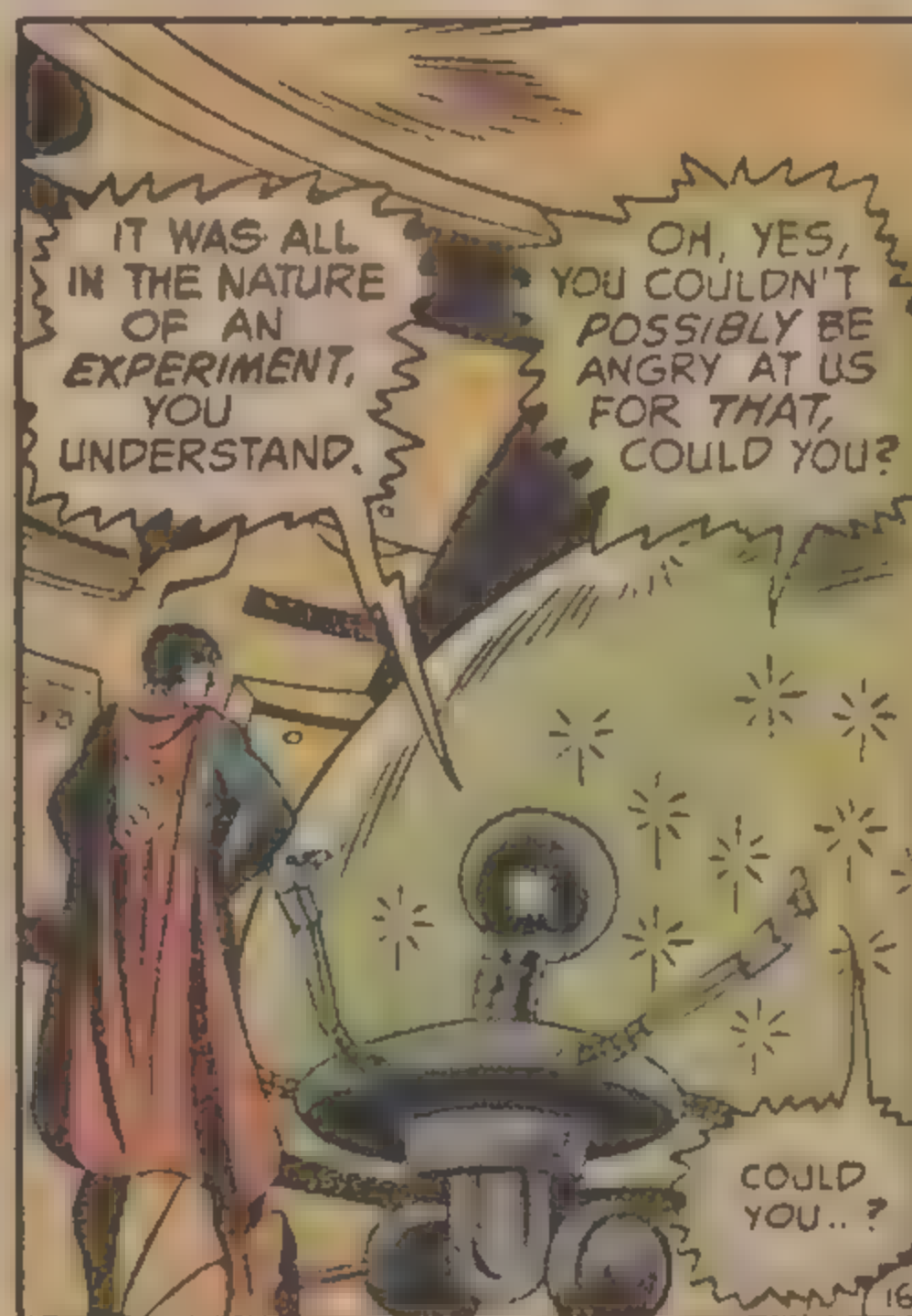
THE INJURIES AND  
DAMAGES DONE ARE MERELY  
SOLID ILLUSIONS--LIKE THE  
MENACES THAT CAUSED THEM!



QUITE! IN FACT, WE'RE  
CANCELLING THOSE  
ILLUSIONS AT THIS VERY  
MOMENT--

--AND  
BROADCAST-  
ING THE  
TRUTH ALL  
OVER  
SMALLVILLE--

...SO THAT  
YOU'LL  
SUFFER  
NO MORE  
BLAME!



IT WAS ALL  
IN THE NATURE  
OF AN  
EXPERIMENT,  
YOU  
UNDERSTAND.

OH, YES,  
YOU COULDN'T  
POSSIBLY BE  
ANGRY AT US  
FOR THAT,  
COULD YOU?

COULD  
YOU...?

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING



**MONEY CHANGER**  
Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob and... OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a \$5 then the \$5 changes to \$10.  
Item A135 \$1.35

## JACK POT BANK

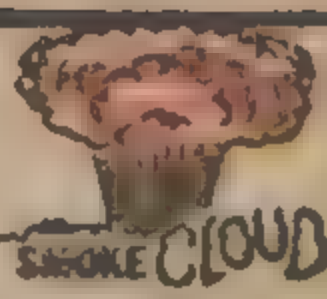


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Dime-operated one armed Bandit! Works like those in Las Vegas. Deposit dime, pull handle, and reels spin like the real thing. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling.  
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**SURPRISE PACKAGE**  
Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble we'll give you more than your money's worth.  
No. 678 Only 75c



**SMOKE CLOUD**  
Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.  
No. 971 25c



**7 FEET TALL**  
GLOW IN THE DARK EYES

**THROW YOUR VOICE**  
Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ven Trilogist".  
No. 137 35c



**KARATE**  
25 Charts Home Study Program  
Here's what you get!  
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No. 30 Only \$1.25



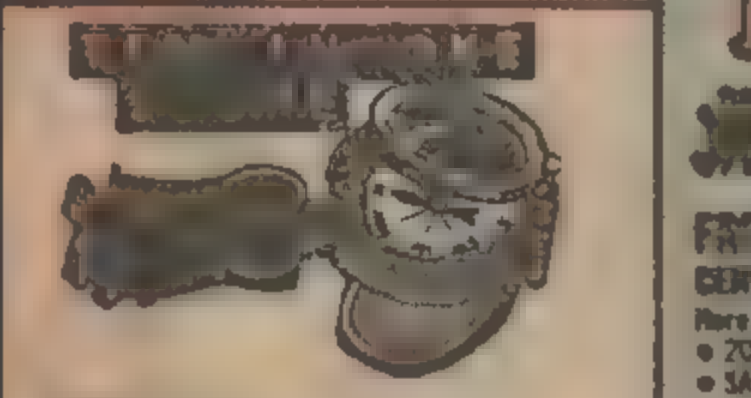
**MUSCLES OF STEEL**  
Results in just 30 days  
Pocket gym slaps inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Gain the respect of your friends—the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one! Made of heavy rubber.  
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ON MILITARY OPTICAL ILLUSION \$1.95  
Scientific optical principle really works. With X-ray Specs you seem to be able to look through flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend is that really his body you see under his clothes?  
No. FL7 \$1.95



**7 FOOT MONSTER**  
Bigger than life—Frankenstein, the man made monster. Giant 7 foot tall. His eyes glow eerily in authentic color on durable polyethylene as scary as your wildest nightmare.  
No. 863 \$1.25



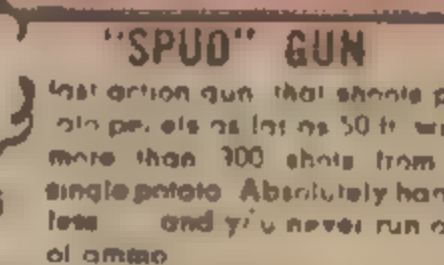
**WONDERSCOPE**  
Wonderscope is ideal for every hobbyist, camper, hunter, sports fan, and scout. It folds to 3 1/2" and opens to 1. Telescope, 2. Microscope, 3. Binoculars, 4. Compass, 5. Magnifying Glass, 6. Reading Lens, 7. Sun Clock, 8. Mirror, 9. Campfire Lighter, 10. Code Transmitter. Directions for use included.  
Item #FL56.....\$1.00



**SECRET BOOK SAFE**  
Looks like any book to camouflages your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under structure is covered with simulated leather binding.  
No. 700 \$1.69



**MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA**  
Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2 1/2 ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time exposure shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.  
No. 788 2.25  
3 Rolls Film 98c

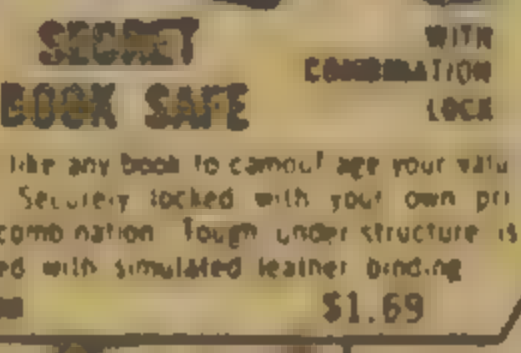


**"SPUD" GUN**  
Last action gun that shoots potato pellets as fast as 50 ft. with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless and you never run out of ammo.  
No. F205 1.50

**7 FOOT MONSTER**  
No. 863 \$1.25  
**MONSTER-SIZE SKELETON**  
No. F200 \$2.25



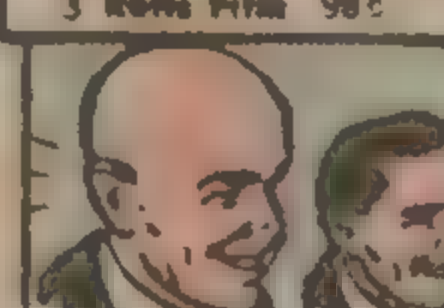
**POWER PEEP SIGHT**  
Six power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument.  
No. P90 \$1.98



**JOY BUZZER**  
Wound novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a SHOCKING hand shake. Absolutely harmless.  
No. 239 \$1.00



**"Power Packer" Arm Builders**  
To give you mighty slapping power  
"Power Packer" wristlets build the powerful arms you need without special diet, mental or exercises. Just wear these rugged lead weighted wristlets during your ordinary activities at work or play.  
Item #900 \$4.25 each



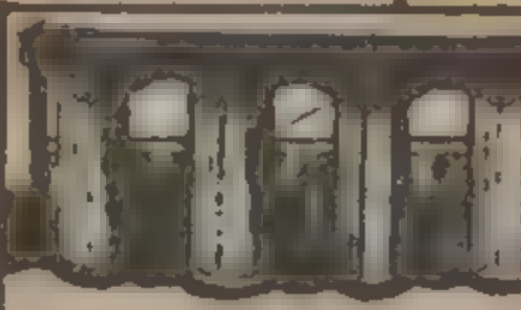
**SKIN READ VIB**  
Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex to fit all heads, read a change in your appearance.  
No. A75 \$1.15



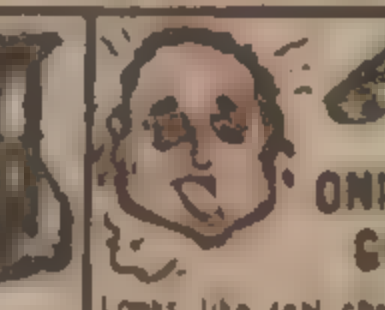
**CHOP-A-CIGAR**  
Chop a cigarette in two in either hole. Put finger in top hole and cigarette in lower. The cigarette is cut, but your finger is unharmed. Full instructions.  
No. 6222 \$1.25



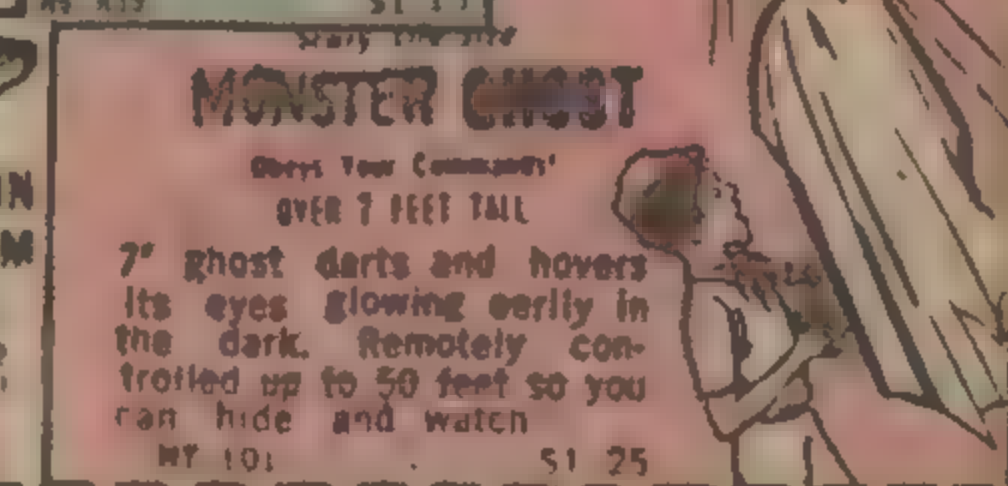
**THIS EGG'S FOR TOUGH GUYS ONLY!**  
Here's a fake egg that looks absolutely real... until someone tries to crack it. What a surprise! Absolutely indestructible.  
Item # 260 ..... 75c



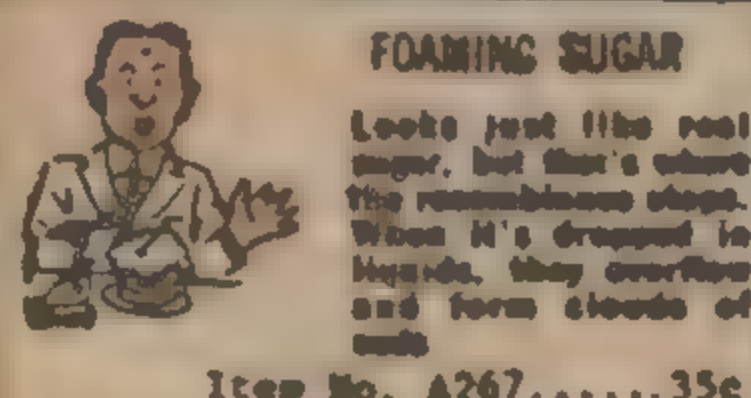
**MONEY CHANGER**  
Just like a professional money changer. Attaches to any belt. Holds pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.  
No. 70 2.25



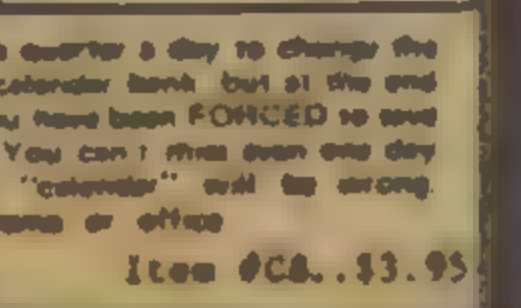
**ONION GUM**  
Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny!  
5 slices to a pack  
No. 201 40c



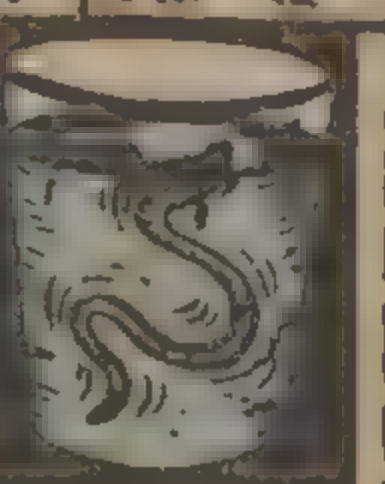
**7 FOOT GHOST**  
Darts and hovers its eyes glowing eerily in the dark. Remotely controlled up to 50 feet so you can hide and watch.  
No. 101 \$1.25



**FOAMING SUGAR**  
Looks just like real sugar, but that's where the resemblance stops. When it's dropped in liquids, they overflow and form clouds of foam.  
Item No. A267.....35c



**CALENDAR**  
It takes only a quarter a day to change the date on your calendar book. But at the end of the year you have been FORCED to save almost \$100. You can't miss even one day because your "calendar" will be wrong. Perfect for home or office.  
Item #C8..\$3.95

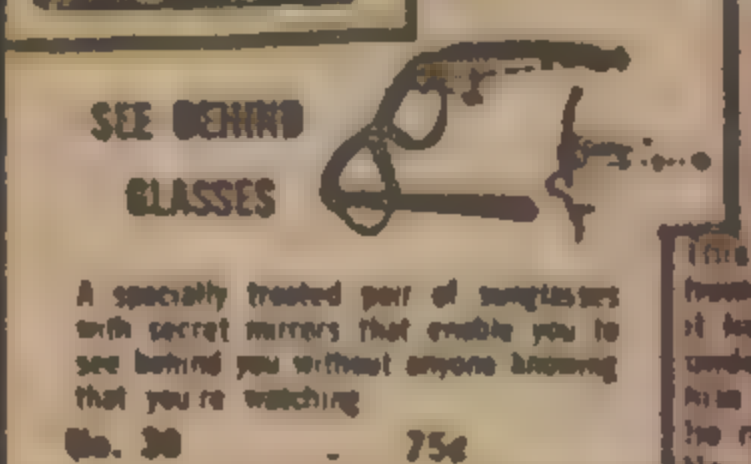


**WORMS**  
Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victim's face? It's harmless.  
No. 612 35c

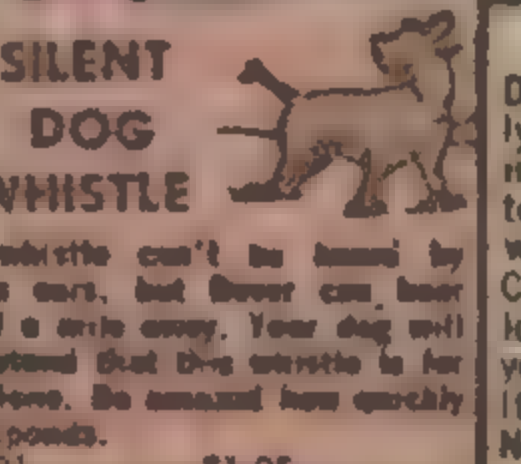
**HONOR HOUSE PROD. CORP. DEPT 86GK71**  
35 WILBUR ST., LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563  
Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.  
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**SEE BEHIND GLASSES**  
A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing that you're watching.  
No. 30 75c



**SILENT DOG WHISTLE**  
This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it well a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.  
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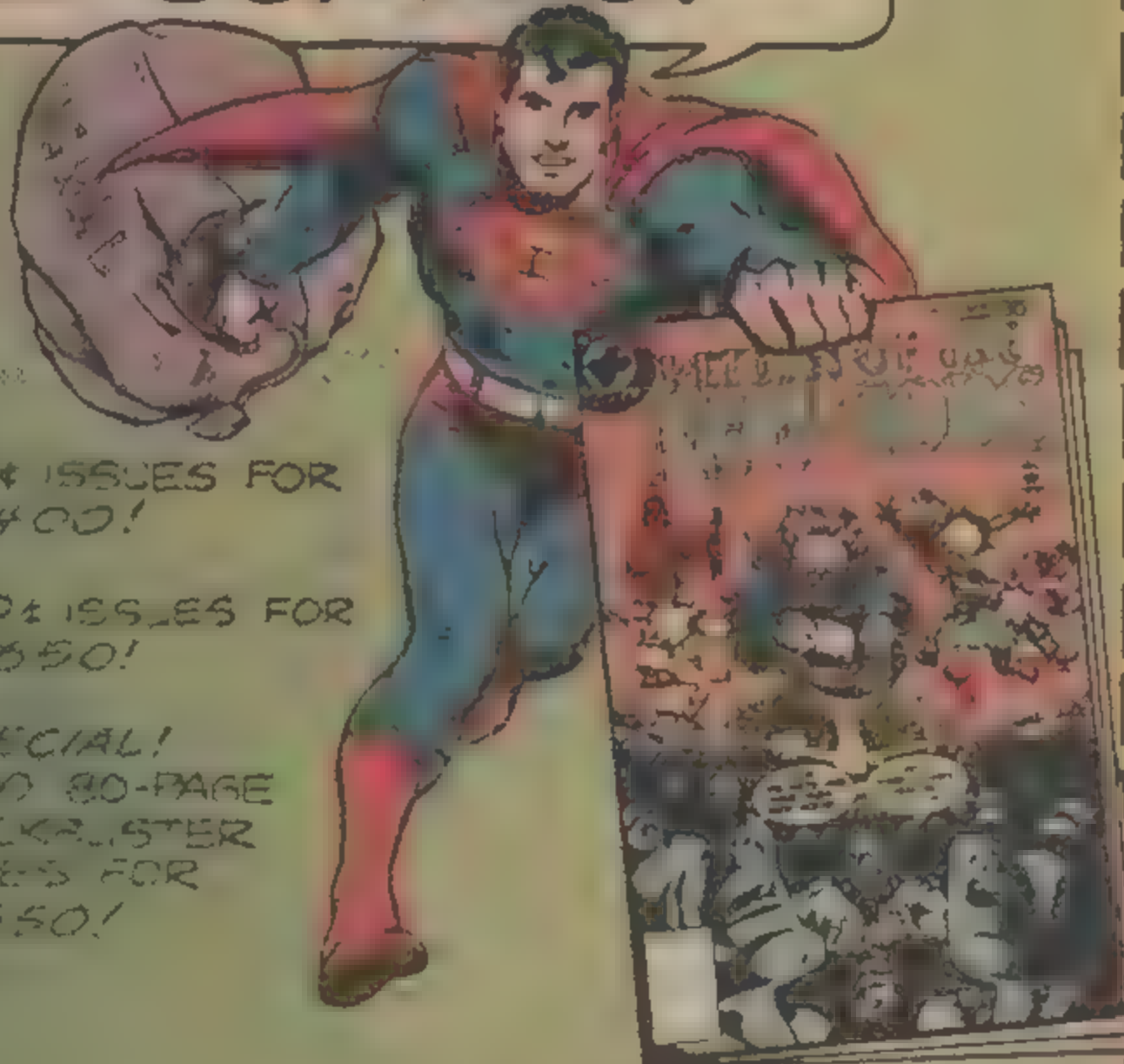
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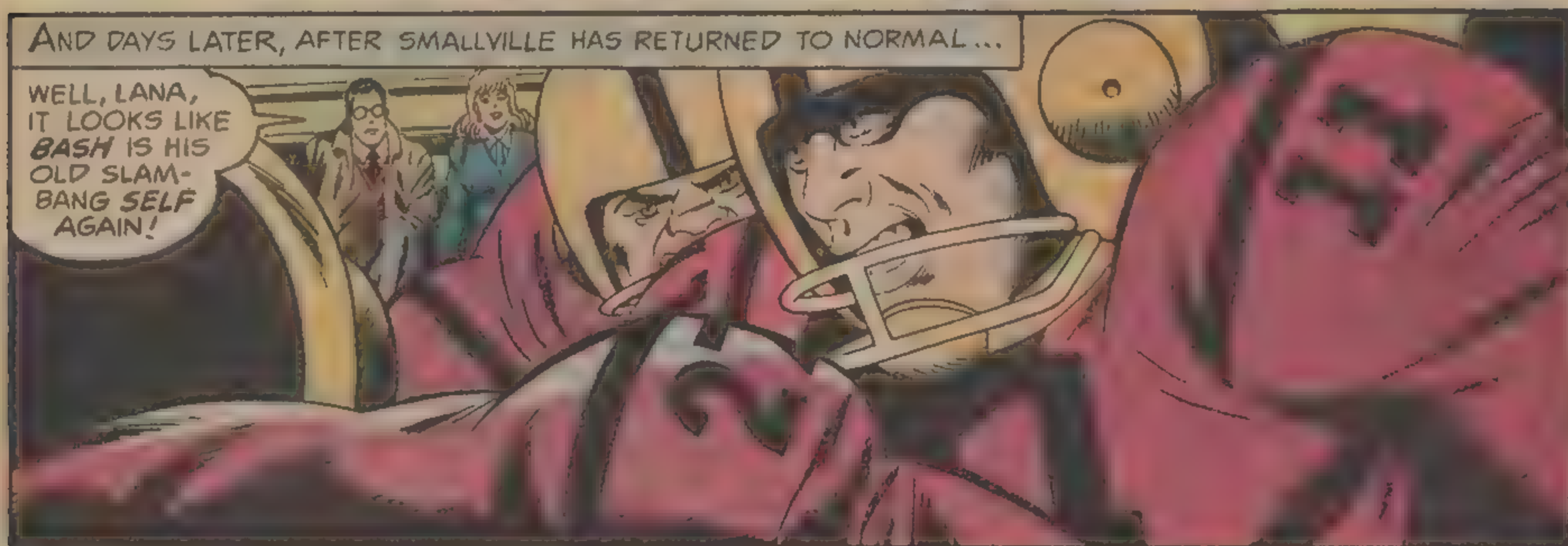
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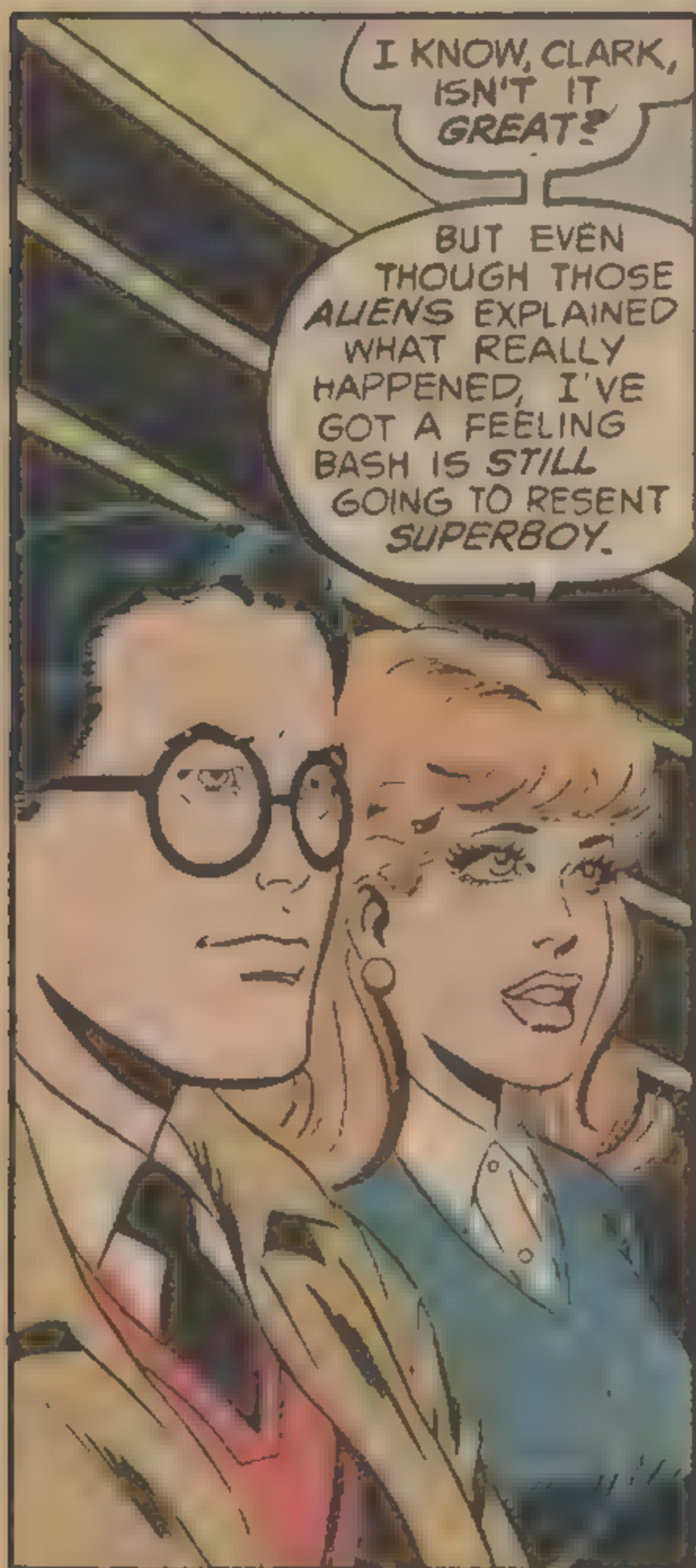
ONE CAN ASSUME THAT WHEN, MOMENTS LATER, SUPERBOY HURLS THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT OUT OF THIS GALAXY--

--THAT THE THOUGHT EXPLORERS HAVE THEIR ANSWER...



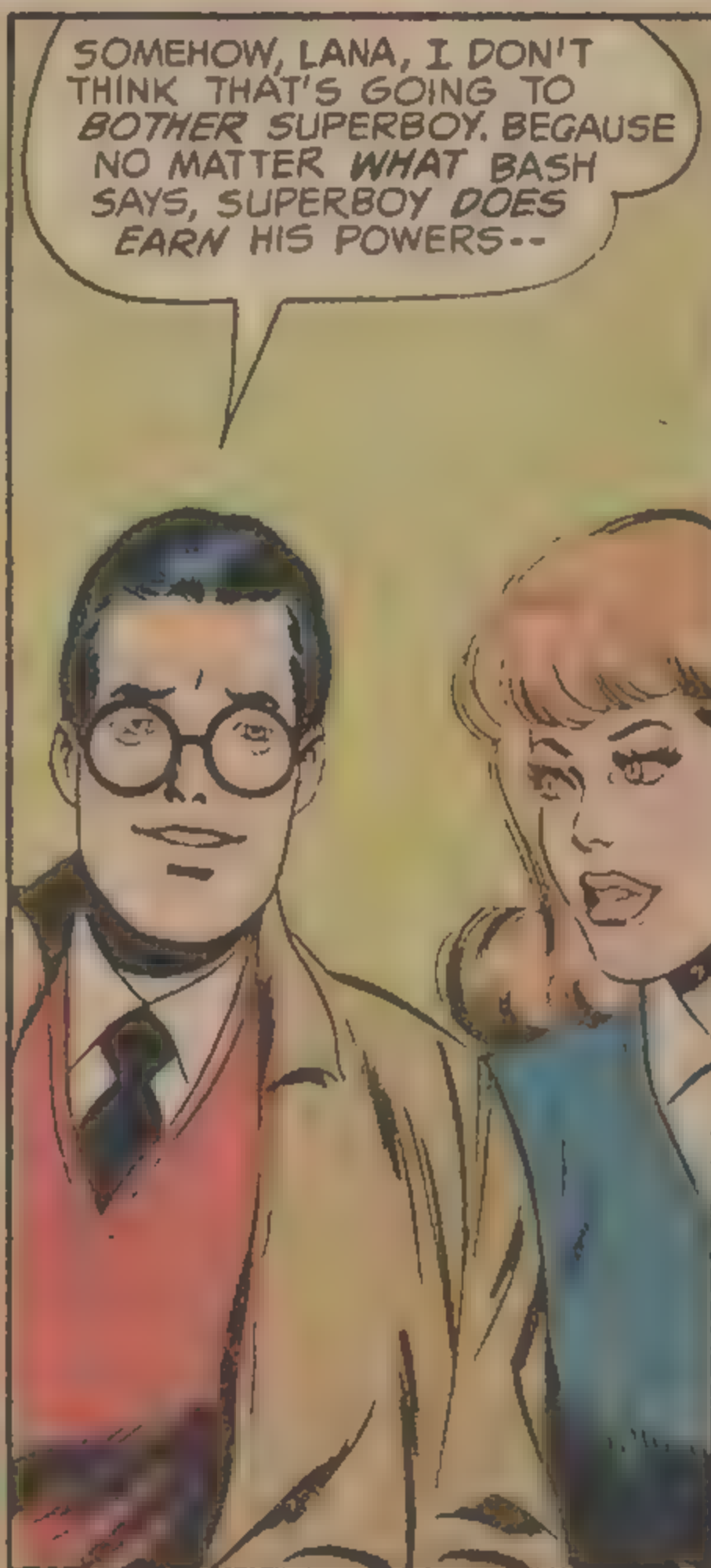
AND DAYS LATER, AFTER SMALLVILLE HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL...

WELL, LANA, IT LOOKS LIKE **BASH** IS HIS OLD SLAM-BANG SELF AGAIN!



I KNOW, CLARK, ISN'T IT GREAT?

BUT EVEN THOUGH THOSE ALIENS EXPLAINED WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, I'VE GOT A FEELING BASH IS STILL GOING TO RESENT SUPERBOY.



SOMEHOW, LANA, I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BOTHER SUPERBOY. BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT BASH SAYS, SUPERBOY DOES EARN HIS POWERS--



--EVERY TIME HE USES THEM!

THE END

NEXT: "A FIRE WITHIN" PLUS:

*The RETURN of ECLIPSO!*

ON SALE FEBRUARY 16TH!

# DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-859

Dear Editor,

After reading the new **TEEN TITANS**, I was beginning to think DC didn't know how to handle teen-age superheroes. **ADVENTURE** #453 sure spun my head around on that thought. Here were two different but equally absorbing stories dealing with "teen titans" that came across excellently. The **Superboy** story was pure fun! It didn't attempt to be heavy, moralizing or terribly dramatic. It just captured the humor, the action, the very **FEEL** of the old **Superboy** stories, right down to the artwork. Clark, Lana, and Pete had just the right quantities of maturity and childishness to make them believable "teens." (If I can remember back that far!) The **Titans** are usually too far one way or the other. The "mystery guest star" fit right in with the light-hearted atmosphere the story set. All in all, it was most enjoyable!

The **Aqualad** story was just as enjoyable but showed us a different kind of youth. It is only understandable that the tone be a little more sober when dealing with someone's search for their family. The impetuosity and brashness of youth was still apparent in **Aqualad**, but it was coupled with a serious, adult desire to know his own roots. Again, I believe that **Aqualad** is a much more believable "teen" than he has ever been in the **TITANS**. The more dramatic art style of Carl Potts fit the serious tone of this story as well as Cainan and Anderson handled **Superboy**.

I thank you for not just one, but two different kinds of stories dealing with teen-heroes in equally plausible ways. You've restored my faith in your view of adolescence!

Michael Christiansen  
704 S. 3 St.  
Rockford, IL 61108

You'll be seeing lots more of our views of adolescence in these pages in the months to come, especially now that we have what's laughingly called in comics a "permanent" team of creative talent guiding the series. David Michelinie, Joe Staton and Jack Abel (all of whom make their debut with this issue's book-lengther) have promised to stick with us, which should improve the quality of the mag from our first three "fill-in" issues.—PL.

Dear Adventurers:

It seems strange and not a little ironic that **Superboy** should be in **ADVENTURE** while the **Legion** resides in **SUPERBOY**. Still, I found **ADVENTURE** #453 the best **Superboy** tale I've read in a long time.

The concepts involved were old and very used: still another person got super powers, and **Superboy** met one more super hero when she was a kid. But the pace was so quick, the writing so crisp, that everything

worked beautifully. And to top it all off, this story actually tied in to one in another magazine! Are you feeling all right, DC people?

Barbara's personality was handled wonderfully, exactly as a young, imaginative bookworm should be. In addition, she showed a marvelous flair for costume design; it's a shame her present costume isn't as snazzy as **Mighty Girl's**.

Still another female (go heroines!) popped up: Lana Lang. For being mistreated by writers for lo these many years, Lana has got to be one of the most potentially interesting women in comics. I've always seen her as Clark's surrogate sister who misunderstood her fondness for **Superboy**/Clark as romantic love. She's close enough to **Supes** (heck, she's known him longer than anybody, except the Kents!) to know his other identity. As a girl, she always sought proof of it; as a woman (I hear she's coming back) she's probably content with her own intuitive knowledge.

The **Aqualad** story was another matter.

**Aqualad** has always been quite a hunk, but give him a bad story and he's boring. "Who is Thy Father?" was **QUITE** slow-moving. Nothing happened in it. I don't mind a question going unresolved for many issues, as long as something else goes on during the resolving. Somebody let Mr. Kupperberg look at the "Trail of the Ring" **AQUAMAN** series, will you?

I will give you credit, Paul. Unlike **CERTAIN** writers, you realize that our **Teen Titans** is a young adult, and does not act nor talk like a sixth-grade delinquent.

And yet, I've forgotten to comment on the art this issue. Both stories deserve the same criticism: good but not outstanding. Cainan/Anderson did a stupendous job in depicting Babs; children are botched by many artists. Their six-panel standard pages were unimaginative, yet there were many panels which particularly attracted my attention. Potts/Rubenstein fit the same six panels per page in a quite different manner. They experimented in their techniques, sometimes successfully, but consistently portrayed **Aqualad** as looking a few years older than he should be.

I guess this all means that **ADVENTURE** 453 was pretty much a good issue. But isn't there some way to switch the **Legion** and **Superboy** back to their normal magazines?

Carol A. Strickland  
5316 Blue Water Pl.  
Fayetteville, N.C. 28301

The problem with restoring **Superboy** and the **Legion** to their "original spots (we hate to consider them "normal")" is that the distributors get used to the title of a magazine relating to its sale on a consistent basis, and we couldn't get them to bump up the print run of **ADVENTURE** dramatically enough to match what they now take of **S/LSH**. Such are the trials of dealing with the secrets behind the comics, folks.—PL.

NEXT: a new back-feature . . . which is guaranteed to surprise you (especially since we don't know what it is yet!). See you there!—Paul Levitz.





# Publishorial

## A Word About the Fight of the Century

Now that we've gone the distance, I can tell you the truth about SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI. Not the whole truth, of course, but enough of it to whet your appetite without pulling any punches.

First, the simple truth. The book—after fifteen grueling, tension-packed months—is a knockout.

All you comic fans have been awaiting this tabloid for over a year. But SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI now has the non-comic book world clamoring for seats. Ever since the New York *Village Voice* splashed news of the match-up across its front page, nationwide coverage of the book has reached that pitch of childish excitement which only adults can generate.

If somehow you missed the hoopla, let me fill you in.

SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI should be appearing on your newstand just in time for the New Year. It is without a doubt the most extraordinary over-sized comic book ever produced. Better than SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN? You can't even compare the two. Just start with the Superman-Ali cover and you'll see why.

The cover wraps around the book so that unfolded it's a poster-size image. As you'd predict, Superman and Ali are slugging it out in the ring. Cheering them on is an impassioned throng. But not your run-of-the-mill spectators. They're the people you'd imagine would actually turn up at a fight like this: Frank Sinatra, Sonny and Cher, Lucille Ball, Pele, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Carson, and even President Carter with Rosalynn at his side.

Who else? Well, naturally, fight promoter Don King, and Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad and his trainer Bundini Brown.

In Superman's corner? The whole raft of DC superstars in their civilian identities. Plus the entire DC staff, a fleet of artists and writers, and the heads of Galaxy Communications (in *their* civilian identities as the heads of Warner Communications).

We had to get permission from every one of those people whose visage appears on the book. Neal Adams (who has executed not only the cover but also each interior page with a lavishness of detail unsurpassed in any comic book) spent weeks drawing individual portraits. When we finally finished with this piece of insanity, there were over one hundred and fifty real people at ringside. We've thoughtfully provided an identifying key so that you, too, can go a little crazy and match the faces with the names.

Credit goes to Julie Schwartz for starting us in the first place. For his efforts on the book, Julie has won this decade's Job award for extreme forbearance beyond the capacity of mortal editors. It was nearly two years ago that Julie made his fatal mistake. The champ was in town and SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN was on the newsstand.

"Ha-ha," said Julie, brilliantly merging the two events. "SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI. Now *that's* a good one."

And with those words he sealed his doom.

Jest became joust. Our man against theirs. Where

was Don King? We had a fight to arrange!

Don was charming but alarming, he hustled, we haggled, he was outrageous, we were courageous; when he demanded 700 percent we held firm and walked out.

Lawyers, phone calls, meetings, meetings, phone calls, phone calls. Two months later we had a deal—with Don. We still had to make a deal with Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad. Herbert's terms were simple. Total approval of everything.

"It's the only way," he said to me. We were sitting at his kitchen table in Chicago. I wanted his total approval of the story and Neal's first drawings.

The phone over Herbert's head rang. He tilted back his chair to answer it, cited a foreign country, and named a multi-million dollar figure.

"Wait a minute," he said into the receiver and turned to me.

"Do you have a pen? I never can find one when I need one," he apologized.

I took out a pen and told Herbert to keep it. From then on, we were working together.

"Now for the plot," said Herbert, hanging up the phone. Why don't you read it to me?"

So I started to read it and ended up telling it.

"It's good, it's good," Herbert beamed. "It sounds more exciting than the movie script we're considering."

He looked at the three drawings of Ali with infinite care. Minutes passed. Finally, he said:

"They're good, too, but tell the artist to fatten Ali's calves when he does the book. Ali's legs are stronger than that."

Once I returned from Chicago, Neal began laying out pages based on the synopsis that Denny O'Neill and Julie had cooked up. When the first double-page spread came in, we were blown out. No alien spaceships, no intergalactic battle, simply a street in Harlem. But what a street! So packed with the overflow of humanity and visual vignettes that you can study the scene for an hour and still find something new.

On the other hand, the story centers not just on a climactic fight between Earth's two supermen but also on an equally climactic bid for interplanetary control. SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI does have alien spaceships, intergalactic battles and pyrotechnical treats.

It also has Dick Giordano's superlative inks, Terry Austin's mind-boggling backgrounds, Neal's own fine writing, and Herbert Muhammad's total approval every step of the way.

Who wins? All of us. It's been a long, hard fight to put out this incredible book. But we feel like champions. When you see how stupendous the tabloid is, you'll be glad you fought for your copy.

Have a happy, healthy New Year—

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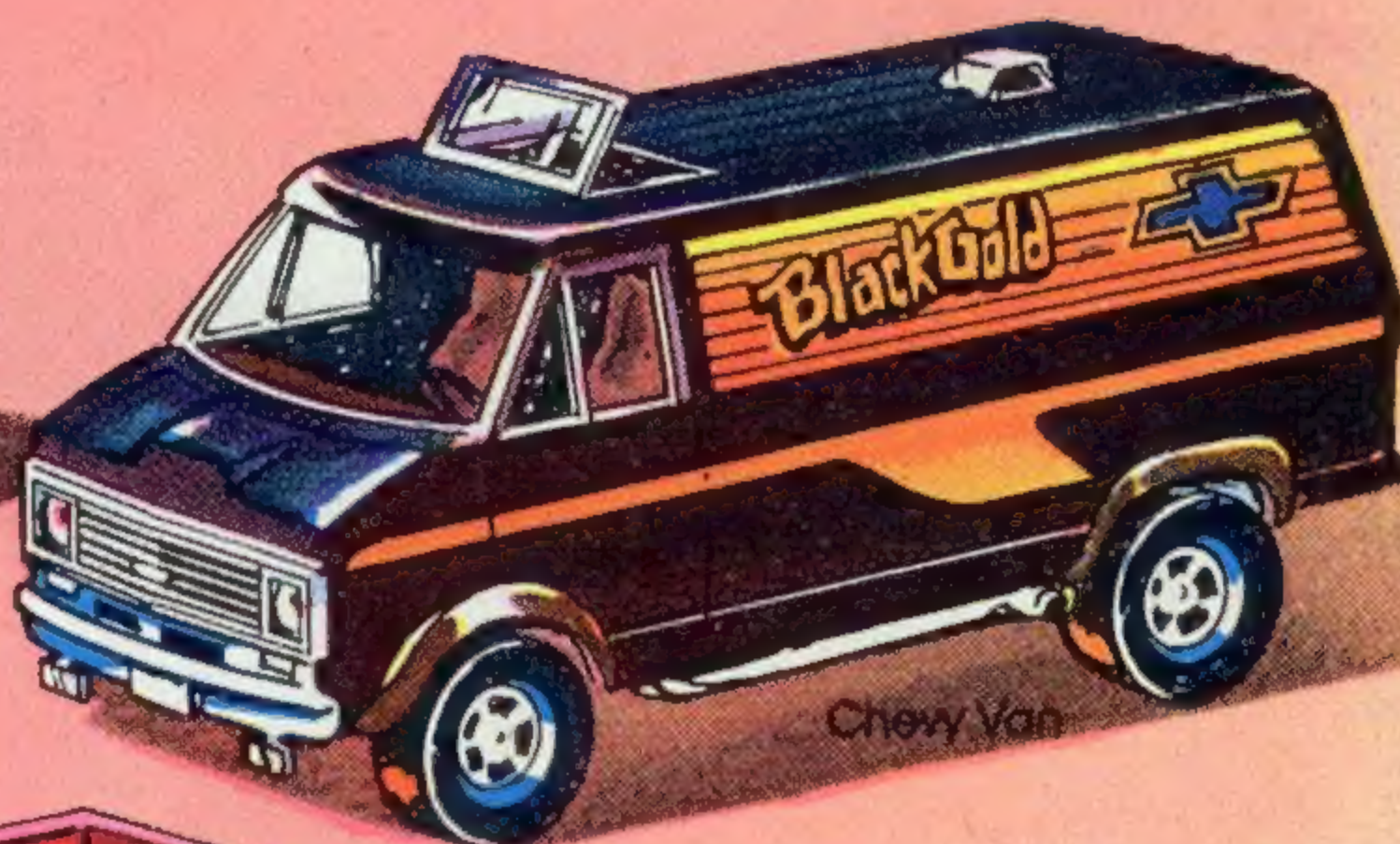


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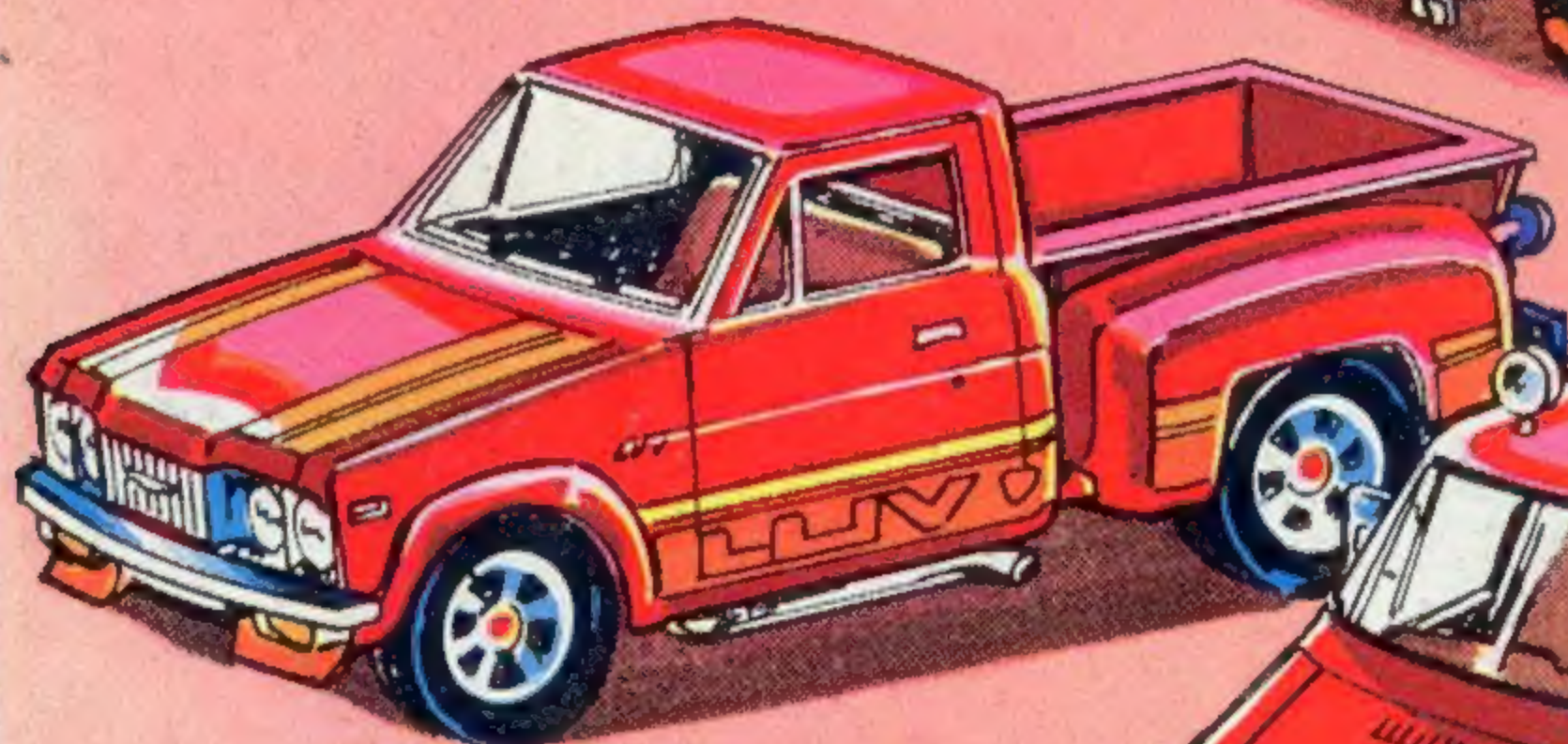
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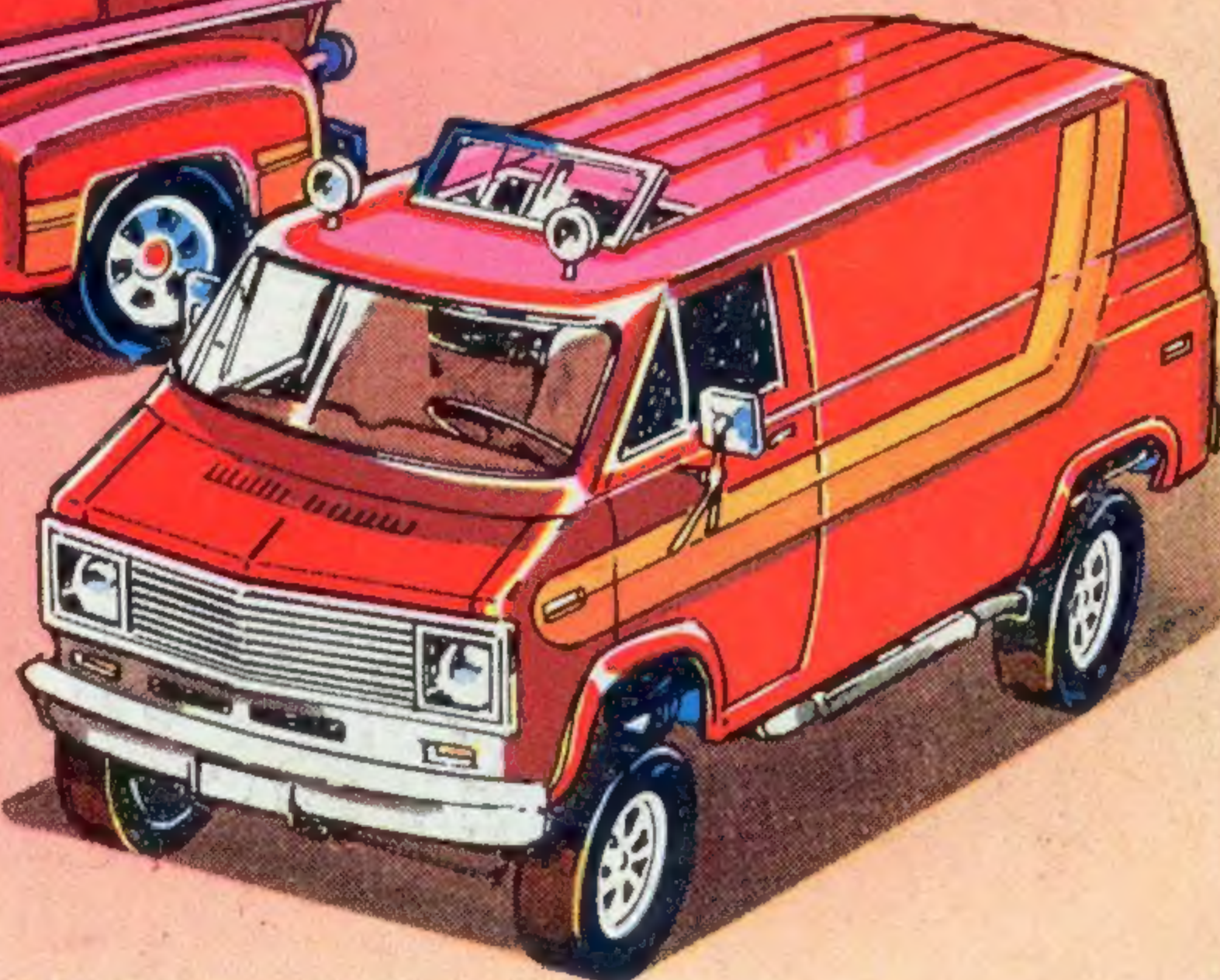
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